

COVID-19 Safety Plan

Queanbeyan Bible Baptist Church

Document Information	
Title	COVID-19 Safety Plan
Revision	11
Organisation	Queanbeyan Bible Baptist Church (QBBC), Inc.
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Next Review Date	As soon as reasonably possible if requirements are changed, otherwise September 2021

Revision Information		
Revision	Date	Description
1	05/06/2020	Prepared for first return to services with up to 50 attendees on June 7th
2	01/08/2020	Updated in response to new compliance measures introduced in NSW on July 24th and refinement of processes since this plan was first implemented
3	29/08/2020	Relaxed requirement to allow attendance of those who have had cold or flu-like symptoms (and who do not have Covid-19 based on a negative test result) from 14 days since their last symptom to 14 days since onset of their symptoms, provided they are now symptom free
4	06/10/2020	Scheduled review of NSW Government requirements and updates to this plan
5	25/11/2020	Scheduled review of NSW Government requirements and updates to this plan
6	07/12/2020	Updated response to new compliance measures introduced in NSW on 7 December 2020.
7	21/12/2020	Updated to respond to changes introduced in NSW on 21 December 2020
8	03/02/2021	Updated to respond to latest NSW Government requirements effective 29 January 2021 and update the return-to-church policy to fewer than 14 days from onset of symptoms if a negative Covid-19 test result is obtained and attendee is symptom free, unless a designated health practitioner or contact tracer has requested completion of a 14-day isolation period.
9	01/04/2021	Updated to respond to relaxed restrictions effective 29 March 2021
10	01/06/2021	Updated to reduce screening for regular attendees and reduce cleaning protocol
11	14/08/2021	Updated to respond to latest increased restrictions effective 2 August 2021, specifically for requirements regarding capacity of 4 square metres per person, use of NSW Government QR Codes and singing

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Introduction

This COVID-19 Safety Plan for Queanbeyan Bible Baptist Church (QBBC) has been developed in response to the national Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and specifically to comply with NSW Government requirements for places of worship. Current maximum capacity for places of worship conducting religious services, as specified by the NSW Government, is 1 visitor per 4 square metres of publicly accessible space. This plan addresses how QBBC will comply with government requirements and help to keep church workers and attendees safe.

This plan is arranged into the following four sections:

1. Preparation and oversight - Outlines the actions taken by QBBC Committee prior to resuming services in June 2020, responses to increased restrictions in late July and ongoing updates based on changing requirements as advised on the NSW Government website. It provides a review process to ensure this plan is kept up to date;
2. Response to requirements - Defines the actions that have been or will be taken in response to each specific requirement provided by the NSW Government. There are four primary areas to be addressed including:
 - a. Wellbeing of staff and congregants;
 - b. Physical distancing;
 - c. Hygiene and cleaning; and
 - d. Record keeping.
3. Service checklist - Provides a simple checklist to ensure that key actions are taken prior to, during and after services; and
4. Incident response - Outlines the process to be followed if a person reasonably suspects that someone may have COVID-19 or may have been exposed to it.

Following are key contacts and information sources:

1. Senior Pastor - Kevin Beier - 0414 955 657
2. Lead Warden - Chris Tomlinson under the guidance of Kevin Beier
3. National Coronavirus Health Information Line - 1800 020 080
4. NSW Government COVID-19 website - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>
5. Detailed COVID-19 workplace safety guidance on Safe Work Australia website - <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces>

Preparation & Oversight

The QBBC Committee has considered and reviewed COVIDSafe requirements and the way in which these will be addressed to ensure compliance. Key steps taken include:

1. Change in configuration of services from normal pattern in order to comply with maximum capacity numbers, provide services online, maximise safety of attendees and support efficiency of preparation and cleaning;
2. Preparation of the building to assess recommended physical distancing including installation of signs, removal of furniture as required, use of projection to supplement the use of physical hymn books and providing alternative methods for offering collection to avoid unnecessary contact;
3. Establishment of COVID-19-specific cleaning protocols;
4. Supply of resources including disposable gloves, masks and appropriate cleaning products;
5. Communication to and training of workers who will be involved in facilitating services;
6. Communication to all attendees to outline the key requirements with which they will be expected to comply; and
7. Preparation, implementation, review and modification of this plan.

The QBBC Committee continues to monitor the situation and review and respond to changing requirements.

The nominated COVIDSafe Accountable Individual and Lead Warden is Chris Tomlinson, who is ultimately accountable to Pastor Beier.

This plan will continue to be monitored and reviewed regularly to respond to changing requirements, improvement opportunities and as issues are identified. This plan is available from church administration and is published on the church website.

Response to Requirements

This section details the responses made by QBBC to the specific requirements provided on the NSW Government websites: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/places-of-worship> and <https://www.nsw.gov.au/form/covid-safety-plan/places-of-worship>

Wellbeing of Staff & Congregants

Item	Requirement	Response	Actions
1	Exclude staff and congregants who are unwell from the premises	Agree	<p>This is managed at three levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General communication to QBBC church family regarding conditions of entry, including via signage posted at the building, that those who are unwell or have symptoms cannot attend; 2. Communication to registered attendees via email response prior to each service that anyone who is unwell or experiencing symptoms cannot attend; and 3. Screening of irregular attendees or new visitors (whether registered prior or not) at point of entry including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Asking each attendee's health and contact history prior to entry (addressed below) b. Asking if attendees have travelled overseas or to a known case location c. Asking if attendees have been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 <p><i>For complete screening protocol, refer to Service Checklist section of this plan</i></p>
2	Provide staff with information and training on COVID-19, including when to get tested, physical distancing, wearing masks and cleaning	Agree	<p>This plan is available to all workers</p> <p>If someone is exhibiting COVID-19, cold or flu symptoms, the public health advice is to get tested</p> <p>Physical distancing requirements are updated in line with changing requirements or lessening of restrictions.</p>

			<p>Face masks are available to all workers and congregants.</p> <p>Information on when and how to use face masks is available at: https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/face-masks</p> <p>Cleaning is addressed specifically in its own section in this plan.</p>
3	<p>Display conditions of entry including requirements to stay away if unwell and record keeping</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Conditions of entry– including a notice about use of NSW Government QR codes and/or attendance record collection – are provided to each attendee prior to their attendance at services, and as material changes are implemented, via email for pre-registrations</p> <p>Signs with conditions of entry are placed at entry points to the building</p> <p>For unanticipated (unregistered) attendees, such as first-time visitors who attend on the day without prior notice being given to the church, entry will be controlled directly at those points of entry via worker communication and screening</p>
4	<p>Other types of venues or facilities within the premises must complete COVID-19 Safety Plans where applicable. If contact details are captured electronically upon entry to the main premises on the relevant day, additional collection of contact details via electronic methods may not be required if there is no other public access to the sub-premises. However, additional contact details and time of entry must be captured where these sub-premises are gyms, entertainment facilities, hospitality venues, nightclubs and retail</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>The QBBC property does not have other facilities within the immediate premises.</p> <p>Use of other premises for Sunday School classes in separate, neighbouring building is controlled by the requirements of this plan</p> <p>For activities conducted offsite from the QBBC property at other venues, the requirements in this plan generally apply and will be tailored to each situation</p>

	premises.		
5	Encourage staff to access COVID-19 vaccination	Disagree	QBBC position is to encourage each worker to make their own decision regarding vaccination

Physical Distancing

Item	Requirement	Response	Actions
1	Capacity must not exceed the greater of one person per 4 square metres of space in the premises, or 25 persons	Agree	<p>The size of the QBBC church building allows up to a maximum of 65 visitors in the two main allocated meeting areas with sufficient allowance for 4 square metres per person based on the publicly accessible area of the main portions of the building which has been measured and is compliant</p> <p>Classroom spaces have not been included in the above measurements. Each classroom has been measured and appropriately signed to comply with 1 person per 4 square metres, with these spaces being in addition to the main meeting areas</p> <p>Services are configured to have one single group of up to 65 attendees attend Sunday School and / or Main Service on a given Sunday or Wednesday in the main meeting areas, with the potential for 9 additional people in the two classroom spaces and 5 additional people in the nursery</p> <p>Provision will be made for unanticipated (unregistered) attendees such as first-time visitors. This means that 60 pre-registered attendees will be allowed where required to cater for up to 5 possible unplanned attendees, and an additional 9 people in classroom spaces and 5 additional people in the nursery, for a total of 79 people in the building, not counting essential workers.</p> <p>Pre-registration using an online form will be used to manage attendance numbers to comply with these physical distancing requirements</p>
2	<p>Ensure 1.5 metres physical distancing where possible, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At points of mixing or queuing 	Agree	<p>Seating is physically arranged and/or signposted to comply with 1.5 metres physical distancing</p> <p>Ushers will monitor seating and at points of mixing or queuing to ensure physical distancing is observed where</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between seated groups • Between staff 		<p>possible</p> <p>If QBBC holds an outdoor service, areas will be marked out to assist with physical distancing</p> <p>Classrooms will be signposted accordingly to comply with maximum numbers in each room</p> <p>The nursery will be available up to a maximum of 5 people at one time and all used items and contact surfaces will be cleaned after use</p>
3	Avoid congestion of people in specific areas where possible	Agree	Ushers will monitor to ensure congestion is avoided where possible
4	Consider having strategies in place to manage gatherings that may occur immediately outside the premises, such as at the conclusion of services	Agree	<p>Ushers will monitor to ensure congestion is avoided where possible</p> <p>Parents must supervise their children at all times within the building and ensure they are complying with the requirements</p> <p>Key areas will be monitored for physical distancing recommendations.</p>
5	Singing by congregants is not allowed in indoor areas	Agree	We will have a limited compliance to this measure, given the Bible's mandate to sing.

Hygiene & Cleaning

Item	Requirement	Response	Actions
1	Face masks must be worn by staff and congregants in indoor areas, unless exempt	Agree	<p>Face masks must be worn as a condition of entry, unless the person carries a written exemption such as a medical certificate or a statutory declaration.</p> <p>Face masks are made readily available</p>
2	Adopt good hand hygiene practices. Have hand sanitiser at key points around the venue	Agree	<p>Hand sanitiser will be readily available throughout the building and supplies monitored by workers</p> <p>Online giving is encouraged, and an offering box is available in the auditorium</p> <p>Projection is used to supplement hymnbooks for those who prefer not to use a book.</p> <p>Posters will be used to reinforce messages relating to good hand hygiene</p>
3	Ensure bathrooms are well stocked with hand soap and paper towels or hand dryers	Agree	Bathrooms will be well stocked with hand soap, paper towels and bins
4	Clean frequently-used indoor hard surface areas (including children's play areas) at least daily with detergent / disinfectant. Clean frequently-touched areas and surfaces several times per day	Agree	<p>Frequently-used areas will be cleaned daily when a service(s) is held, using appropriate cleaning agents such as detergent, disinfectant and PPE, with a particular focus on high-traffic contact surfaces including door handles, handrails, seating, bathrooms and the nursery.</p> <p>A designated leader for cleaning will coordinate and supervise cleaning.</p> <p>If someone infected does attend QBBC, the national protocols of cleaning will be followed as required.</p> <p>For more information see the Safe Work Australia website:</p>

			https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/cleaning-prevent-spread-covid-19
5	In indoor areas, increase natural ventilation by opening windows and doors where possible, and increase mechanical ventilation where possible by optimising air conditioning or other system settings (such as by maximising the intake of outside air and reducing or avoiding recirculation of air)	Not applicable	It is not practical for the church to open doors and windows, and they will remain shut. The church may investigate alternative filtration for the reverse cycle A/C units and will implement a solution if a better alternative is identified

Record Keeping

Item	Requirement	Response	Actions
1	Use the NSW Government QR code system to collect an electronic record of the name, contact number and entry time for all staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors	Agree	<p>Condition of entry requires use of the NSW Government QR code system wherever possible</p> <p>Greeters / ushers will ask that all attendees check in using this system</p>
2	Processes must be in place to ensure that people provide the required contact information, such as by checking phones for the green tick to confirm they have checked in (keeping 1.5m physical distance between staff and patrons). QR codes should be clearly visible and accessible including at entrances to the premises.	Agree	<p>Greeters / ushers will do random spot checks of visitor phones to confirm check in process has been completed</p> <p>QR codes are placed in clearly visible and accessible locations at both entrances to the premises</p>
3	<p>If a person is unable to provide contact details, for example due to age or language barriers, another person may provide contact details on their behalf. If it is not possible for check-in to occur, keep a record of the name, contact number and entry time for all staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors for a period of at least 28 days. These records must be provided in an electronic format such as a spreadsheet as soon as possible, but within 4 hours, upon request from an authorised officer.</p>	Agree	<p>Where required, a person will register any dependant(s) details on their behalf</p> <p>Where use of the NSW Government QR code system is not possible, an attendance register will be completed at every service and meeting to record this information and will either be checked at entry (in the case of someone who has registered online) or be filled out at entry under supervision of a worker</p> <p>Records will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collected electronically in the significant majority of cases via use of the NSW Government QR code system or via online registration form; and 2. Retained for at least 28 days post attendance <p>Relevant records will be provided in the required timeframe</p>

			to an authorised officer upon request
4	A copy of this COVID-19 Safety Plan will be kept at the premises	Agree	A physical copy of this COVID-19 Safe Plan will be available at the premises, with other copies and records available from church administration

Service Checklist

This section is a checklist of general requirements for services.

Time	Requirement	Response
Prior	Pre-service communication to attendees on requirements has been provided	
	Cleaning was completed after the last service	
	COVIDSafe posters and NSW Government QR codes are displayed prominently at the entrance and in key locations	
	COVIDSafe wardens are easily identifiable and are ready at assigned areas as required	
	Greeting volunteers have been trained in screening	
	NSW Government QR code system is used by majority of attendees	
	Attendees are required to register upon entering, using the NSW Government QR code system. In cases where this is not possible, registration is completed by a worker on their behalf	
	Appropriate hand sanitation is set up throughout the building in prominent locations	
A seating plan is established at 1 person per 4 square metres, per room.		
During	When people arrive, they should wait in a line at least 1.5 metres apart if there is a queue	
	<p>On entry, regular attendees check in via the NSW Government QR code system, or alternative registration where this is not possible</p> <p>On entry, new or irregular attendees with whom we are not familiar, such as visitors, are asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If they have experienced any COVID, cold or flu-like symptoms in the past 14 days 2. If they have travelled to any known case locations in the past 14 days 3. If they have had any contact with anyone confirmed with a case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days 4. If they have travelled overseas in the past 14 days <p>If yes to questions 1 or 2, entry conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are symptom free • They have received a negative COVID-19 test result 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have not been asked to complete a 14-day self-isolation period by a designated health practitioner or contact tracer <p>If yes to questions 3 or 4, they will be informed that they will be unable to attend</p> <p>If no to all four questions, attendees will check in / be registered</p> <p>For clarity, someone who experienced symptoms or attended a known case location within the last 14 days is allowed to attend provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are symptom free • They have received a negative COVID-19 test result • They have not been asked to complete a 14-day self isolation period by a designated health practitioner or contact tracer 	
	<p>During the service, announcements may include updates as needed on COVIDSafe practices, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People should practise physical distancing at a minimum of 1.5 metres where possible 2. Wash hands and maintain good hygiene practices 3. Sneeze / cough into your elbow 4. Other relevant COVIDSafe practices that apply 	
	<p>COVIDSafe wardens monitor attendee numbers to ensure the maximum number of people is not exceeded in any given area. The exception is student classrooms, where children are following the NSW guidelines for schools</p>	
	<p>There is a clear post-service plan to monitor physical distancing practices</p>	
After	<p>The attendee records register is stored confidentially for at least 28 days in a secure, electronic location.</p>	
	<p>Post service cleaning is complete</p>	
	<p>This COVID-19 Safety Plan is monitored, reviewed and updated as required</p>	

Incident Response

This section outlines the process of responding to a suspected case of or exposure to COVID-19.

If anyone at QBBC - whether worker or church attendee - reasonably suspects that someone may have COVID-19 or has been exposed to it, they must notify the COVIDSafe Warden immediately, who will be responsible for overseeing the incident response plan in consultation with Pastor Beier.

QBBC is classified under Health & Safety laws as a workplace. Therefore, the process for a COVID-19 incident notification on site is:

1. Notify the COVIDSafe Warden on duty immediately; and
2. Secure the site as outlined in the following process:

Location of the person	Step	Actions
The person is on site	Isolate	Prevent the spread Isolate the person from others and provide a disposable surgical mask, if available, for the person to wear
	Seek advice	Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line - 1800 020 080 Follow advice of public health officials
	Transport	Ensure the person has transport to their home or to a medical facility if required
	Clean	Clean and disinfect the areas where the person and close contacts have been Do not use those areas until this process is complete Use PPE when cleaning
	Identify and inform	Consider who the person has had close contact with If instructed by public health officials, tell close contacts they may have been exposed and follow advice on quarantine requirements
	Review	Review risk management controls relating to COVID-19 and review whether work may need to change Consult QBBC Committee and workers on WHS issues
The person was recently on site	Seek advice	Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line - 1800 020 080 Follow advice of public health officials

	Identify and inform	Identify who at the workplace had close contact with the affected person. If instructed by public health officials, tell close contacts they may have been exposed and follow advice on quarantine requirements
	Clean	Clean and disinfect the areas where the person and their close contacts have been Do not use those areas until this process is complete Use PPE when cleaning
	Review	Review risk management controls relating to COVID-19 and review whether work may need to change Consult QBBC Committee and workers on WHS issues