

All you need to know: answers to your frequently asked questions

Victoria's COVID restrictions are set to ease further at 6pm this Friday (October 29).

This will allow more fully vaccinated people to attend religious gatherings, weddings and funerals (up to 500 people outdoors). As Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria will be operating under the same restrictions, we will be publishing one set of FAQs for all Victoria on October 28.

Metropolitan Melbourne started to emerge from lockdown on October 22 after 70 per cent of Victoria's population had been double-vaccinated. This meant religious gatherings (including worship), weddings and funerals could be held in-person. Restrictions in Regional Victoria also eased further.

The number of people who may attend religious gatherings in any part of Victoria depends on whether everyone present is fully vaccinated. The FAQs (below) are a guidance for Church Councils and anyone who is planning to attend any such gathering.








Permitted/Authorised Worker Permits (Melbourne): There is conflicting advice on the Victorian Government's website regarding whether Permits are required to attend any workplace other than a worker's own house. Until we receive clarification, continue to assume Permits are required.

As of October 22, any authorised worker in Victoria must have received at least one vaccine dose – and must receive the second dose by November 26 – to be able to work from any workplace other than their own house. They must also have provided evidence of their vaccination status to their workplace. This applies to paid and voluntary work.

This list of authorised workers includes faith leaders, marriage celebrants and funerary service providers, including broadcasting or pre-recording. It also includes people providing essential safety maintenance of properties, cleaning, gardening, op shop volunteers and even church organists.

There is a full list of current restrictions below in the Melb Metro and Vic Regional FAQs. You will also find a [Permitted Worker Permit application \(https://victas.uca.org.au/download/668/faq/11276/permitted-worker-permit-template-uca-2021\)](https://victas.uca.org.au/download/668/faq/11276/permitted-worker-permit-template-uca-2021) and a [Worker Vaccination Status Record for congregations \(https://victas.uca.org.au/download/668/faq/11504/worker-vaccination-status-record-congregations\)](https://victas.uca.org.au/download/668/faq/11504/worker-vaccination-status-record-congregations) below.

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12 Comments

Sunday 17th May – Online Worship: Easter 6 – St Luke's Uniting Church, Highton

(<https://hightonstlukes.unitingchurch.org.au/sunday-17th-may-online-worship-easter-6/>) on May 17, 2020 at 1:46 am

[...] The Uniting Church Synod has put together a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID 19 restrictions and what congregations are able to do. You can find this information here. [...]



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(<https://victas.uca.org.au/>)

Advice for re-starting youth ministry gatherings in Vic/Tas | Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
(<https://victas.uca.org.au/advice-for-re-starting-youth-ministry-gatherings-in-vic-tas/>) on May 28, 2020 at 10:39 am

[...] For updated information, please check The Vic/Tas UCA Synod Covid-19 site [...]
(<https://victas.uca.org.au/about-us/>)

Churches & Faith

(<https://victas.uca.org.au/churches-faith/>)



Rosemary Carter on May 28, 2020 at 6:07 pm
(<https://victas.uca.org.au/community-learning/>)

Ministry & Mission

Thanks for trying to keep us updated about COVID-19 and worship gatherings etc. It would be helpful, however, if you included the changes in numbers that have been announced for June 1 in Victoria. This is increasing to 20 people plus those necessary for the conduct of the worship – 4sqm space permitting. Church Councils and congregation leaders will need to know this to be able to prepare their spaces, as for some congregations it may actually be possible for them to recommence worship together. The information received today only indicates that it will change on June 1 in VIC and June 15 in TAS but not to what.

News & Events

(<https://victas.uca.org.au/news-events/>)



Ian Phillips on June 5, 2020 at 8:09 pm
(<https://victas.uca.org.au/contact-us/>)

Regarding the COVID-19 FAQ released on 04 June – Please note the typo on page 2, column 1. The updated 'Gatherings' information refers to the maximum allowable number of people in paragraph 3 as 20, but the first paragraph in the italicised block points at the bottom of the column still refers to 10 people. Other references through the document appear to be correct as these all state 20 people.



David Morgan on June 5, 2020 at 10:11 am

The June 4 edition on page 3 requires 4sqm per person in private homes.
DHHS at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/social-gatherings-covid-19#how-many-visitors-can-i-have-to-my-housenbsp>
(<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/social-gatherings-covid-19#how-many-visitors-can-i-have-to-my-housenbsp>)
does not include the 4sqm. (Below) Did I miss something on DHHS or did you miss the change among all the others n June 1.
Thanks,
David Morgan

How many visitors can I have to my house?
Under new arrangements that will come into effect at 11.59pm on Sunday, 31 May, you can have up to 20 people in your home at any one time, including those who normally live with you in the household. Children are counted in the total person limit.
For example, if you are a household of five people, you can 15 visitors.
If you are visiting someone's home, you should ensure appropriate physical distancing by keeping at least 1.5 metres between you and others who are not from your household and practise good hygiene. If you or your friends, family or partner are feeling unwell you should not visit anyone or have visitors at your home.

Victorians are being asked to use common sense when it comes to visiting friends and family, especially those who are more vulnerable. That means seeing those you need to – if you need to.



Rob Jackson on June 11, 2020 at 3:25 pm

HOT TIP: Preferably use the "Download" link within the "Related Documents" box to access the latest version of the FAQs. The "Click Here"s within the opening text may inadvertently point to previous issues (like they are currently doing)

Reply



Annette Buckley on June 22, 2020 at 12:47 pm

Hello,

Thanks for helping us with these updates.

It would be helpful if you could include the definition of 'publicly accessible floor space' for congregations to consider when measuring their worship spaces. The latest information from DHHS says "Note: the density quotient, also referred to as the 'four square metre rule' is to be calculated by measuring the area which the members of the public can access, such as the table area in a restaurant, but not the food preparation area or in a store room." My understanding of this is that if a church building measures 100 x 100, but the front 20m is not used by the congregation, but taken up by the pulpit/organ/communion table, it is not part of the publicly accessible floor space. The publicly available space is 80 x 100. I think the FAQs lead to the impression that you just need to measure the space contained by the walls. Please could you clarify this?

thanks, Annette

Reply

Preparing for the re-opening St Luke's Buildings – St Luke's Uniting Church, Highton

(<https://hightonstlukes.unitingchurch.org.au/preparing-for-the-re-opening-st-lukes-buildings/>) on June 26, 2020 at 4:47 pm

[...] weekly update can be found on the Synod Website here and is updated every Thursday. There is a pastoral letter for the moderator at the beginning of [...]

Reply



David Morgan on June 29, 2020 at 7:59 pm

Nominations and elections for Church Council are coming up soon. Are there approved procedures for this without a physical meeting of the congregation?

Reply



Don Campbell on July 23, 2020 at 2:14 pm

Thanks for your great information and tables, etc.

Could you please design a Mask Poster to display at our shared premises – you must/should (and how to wear perhaps).

BTW, based on the Government Directives the number who can attend an essential support group still remains the lesser of 20 or the spatial/density quotient. This has not changed for a couple of months, however your Victorian FAQ shows 10 instead. The rest of your information is great and accurate.

Reply



Annette Buckley on January 21, 2021 at 8:10 pm

Hi. It appears that the link for the current Victorian FAQs actually downloads the January 04 version. It has the old information about face masks being mandatory in all public indoor spaces.

Reply



Trang Vo on September 30, 2021 at 10:56 am

Hello. I wonder whether the Synod has conversations about the necessity of imposing a double vaccination or not before gathering in church? Many church members have indicated this question.

Reply

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Additional Resources

Pilgrim Theological College
(<https://pilgrim.edu.au>)

Uniting AgeWell
(<https://unitingagewell.org/>)

U Ethical (<https://uethical.com/>)

Uniting VicTas
(<https://www.vt.uniting.org/>)



Our new website

We have just launched our new website and are currently working on several pages. If you do see any errors or omissions please let us know
(<https://victas.uca.org.au/contact-us/website-comments-suggestions/>).

Get in touch
(<https://victas.uca.org.au/contact-us/website-comments-suggestions/>)

Community Access

Directory Victoria: (03) 9116 1400
(<https://nod.victas.uca.org.au/>) (<https://nod.victas.uca.org.au/synod@victas.uca.org.au>)

(https://portals.victas.uca.org.au/_layouts/15/Login/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f_layouts%2f15%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource%3d%252FPages%2FWelcome.aspx)
Tasmania: (03) 6331 9784



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