

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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24 September 2020

School, sport and music restrictions relaxed

More families can attend community sports, music ensembles and school camps can proceed, and a modest increase in dancing at weddings is allowed under new COVID-19 safety rules.



Changes to Term 4 school guidelines include:

- Community Languages Schools Program will recommence face to face learning
- Interschool activities can recommence on September 26 where there is a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place
- Playing wind instruments, singing and chanting is permitted with strict restrictions
- Year 6 formals and graduations are permitted
- High school formals are permitted from November 12 to limit any HSC disruption, and

- Kindergarten orientation, Year 7 transition, excursions and camps can resume with strict guidelines.

Musical ensembles can also resume, as long as players keep a 1.5 metre distance from one another, or three metres for players of non-reeded woodwind instruments.

Commencing this weekend, more than one parent may now attend community sporting activities if physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres can be maintained between people that are not from the same household.

Accommodation facilities and overnight event organisers should develop and implement a COVID-19 Safety Plan. All carpooling should continue to be avoided.

NSW Health has also relaxed wedding restrictions allowing up to 20 people in the official wedding party to dance.

There is no restriction on school holiday travel within NSW for people who live within the State, however, anyone who is unwell should defer travel plans and get tested.

Updated school guidelines are available [here](#) and the full updated health advice is available [here](#).

Small businesses encouraged to apply for Southern Border Grant

Eligible NSW small businesses impacted by the closure of the NSW and Victorian border are now benefiting from the \$45 million Southern Border Small Business Support Grant program.



As well as providing cash flow, the grant may be used to pay for immediate operating expenses such as utilities, as well as to develop marketing and communication materials.

The first tier is a \$5,000 grant for eligible employing and non-employing small businesses, such as non-employing sole traders, that have suffered at least a 30 per cent decline in turnover as a result of the border closure.

The second tier is a \$10,000 grant for eligible employing small businesses that

have suffered at least a 75 per cent decline as a result of the closure.

The grant is available to eligible small businesses in 13 NSW Local Government Areas along the southern border.

Already more than 700 businesses have applied for the grants, at a value of over \$5 million.

Applications for the Southern Border Small Business Support Grant will close on October 18.

The grant can only be used for eligible expenses incurred since the closure of the NSW and Victoria border on July 8 for which no other government support is available.

For more information on the Southern Border Small Business Support Grant please [click here](#).



Agricultural workers and employers benefit from amended PHO

The NSW Government will become the first jurisdiction to write the new Agricultural Workers Code into public health orders, paving the way for the \$15.9 billion NSW primary industries sector to find skilled

workers for the upcoming harvest.

The Code, to take effect from tomorrow, will make it simpler for a wider range of agricultural workers to gain a permit to cross the NSW-Victorian border. The simplified approval system will make it easier for farmers who need to hire employees across the two states for the harvest, including seasonal workers.

The amendments also mean employers of agriculture workers will no longer have to wait up to five days for approval for their workers' registration.

Agricultural workers travelling between NSW and Victoria will need a permit and relevant identification and will be required to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as appropriate.

Travelling workers will also need to keep records of their movements. Agricultural employers need to support workers to perform self-isolation in the first 14 days after entry into NSW, and must have a COVID Safety Plan in

place.

For more information and to apply for a permit please [click here](#).

Upcoming council webinar with Minister Hazzard

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is hosting a council webinar with Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard (pictured) on Monday (September 28) from 3-3.45pm.



Invitations have been distributed to mayors and general managers with information on how they can register for the webinar.

Councils are also encouraged to submit any questions they would like answered during the webinar when they register.

The webinars are part of a series coordinated by Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock with relevant Ministers and public officials across Government to keep mayors and general managers up to date on the latest COVID-19 information and answer their questions.

Recordings of webinars are available on [the OLG website](#).

Further council webinars will be announced in due course.



Information and resources

[Guidelines for COVID Safe workplaces](#)
Safety plans for a range of businesses and organisations can be found [here](#), and those in the sport and recreation sector [here](#).

[COVID Safe Summer Plan](#)

The NSW Government has launched the COVID Safe Summer Plan to help managers of beaches, parklands and public space to make this a safe summer for all. Find out more by clicking [here](#). Councils can access social media tiles [here](#).

[Job Retention Allowance payment applications](#)

Councils can still apply for the Job Retention Allowance payment of \$1,500 per fortnight, per eligible employee. Find out how in this [circular](#).

Together against COVID-19

A pack outlining strategy, plans, and controls for communication to build social cohesion as the COVID-19 crisis evolves can be found [here](#).

Stakeholder toolkit in community languages

Downloadable translated resources and direct links to information on how to stay COVID Safe in the community and specific resources for businesses can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Quicklinks

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#), [Commonwealth Government](#), [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), and [NSW Office of Local Government](#) websites.

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