

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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19 October 2020

Restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings eased

Gatherings in outdoor public spaces and group bookings at restaurants will be increased to 30 people under a relaxation of COVID-19 rules.



From this Friday (October 23) up to 30 people can gather in outdoor public spaces, an increase from 20, and up to 30 customers per booking and 30 customers per table at hospitality venues will be allowed, an increase from 10.

As of last Friday (October 16) the following changes came into effect:

- Corporate functions of up to 300 people can now be held at an appropriate premises, including at restaurants
- A music rehearsal or performance of up to 500 people may be held in an outdoor public place
- Up to 150 people may attend weddings, and
- Up to 100 people may attend funerals and religious services.

All events and premises must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Additionally, from December 1 the number of people who can attend weddings will be lifted to 300 people from 150, subject to the four square metre rule indoors and two square metre rule outdoors.

Businesses wishing to take advantage of the relaxed restrictions must use electronic methods, like QR codes, to record and keep contact details.

Please continue to check [this page](#) for updates on restrictions.



Restrictions relaxed for Remembrance Day

Groups of up to 100 people will be able to gather for Remembrance Day services across NSW after the approval of a one-off exemption from COVID-19 restrictions.

The one-off exemption to the Public Health Order increases the current restrictions from 20 people to 100 people, to gather at community war memorials, provided they adhere to social distancing measures and have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.

The exemption is in place for Remembrance Day services held before November 12.

Planning for a NSW State Commemorative Service in Martin Place is currently underway.

Businesses linked with COVID-19 and Public Health Alert toolkits

The Department of Customer Service has issued two new toolkits that councils are encouraged to distribute through their communication channels.



The toolkits are:

- What to do if your business is linked to a case of COVID-19, and

- The three types of Public Health Alerts NSW Health might issue to a community.

The toolkits can be accessed [here](#).

Councils helping councils with bushfire funding

Some bushfire-affected councils are seeking help from other councils to apply for and acquit available recovery funding.



This funding includes the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund and the \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, co-funded by the NSW and Australian governments.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is asking councils to come forward if they can provide staff with grant expertise to assist those bushfire-affected councils to take advantage of these funding opportunities.

This builds on the success of the Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group established in January this year to co-ordinate council to council assistance during the Black Summer bushfires.

If your council is in a position to offer assistance please complete an expression of interest (EOI) by following [this link](#). Further information will be available to all councils who register their interest. Completing the EOI does not commit a council to receiving or providing assistance but allows OLG to start matching support with requests for help.

If you are a council requiring assistance with bushfire recovery grants please complete a request for assistance by following [this link](#).

Councils interested in participating can also contact their OLG Council Engagement Manager if they have any questions.



Information and resources

[New Public Health Order](#)

The latest Public Health Order on gatherings and movement that took effect on October 16 can be found [here](#).

[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](#).

[Keep Our Mob Safe campaign](#)

NSW Health in partnership with the Department of Customer Service has developed the Keep Our Mob Safe campaign to prepare and empower Aboriginal people to keep themselves and their communities safe and healthy amid COVID-19. The resources include flyers, posters, and social media tiles and are available for download [here](#).

[COVID Safe Halloween advice](#)

NSW Health supports individuals participating in COVID Safe Halloween celebrations, providing levels of community transmission remain low and participants follow current rules when gathering together. For information on how to celebrate Halloween safely please [click 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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