

Memorandum

TO: Clergy, Parish Leaders and Leadership Teams, Parish Staff

CC:

FROM: Fr Andrew Doohan VG

DATE: 26/06/2021

ATTACHMENTS: 0

SUBJECT: Public Health (COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions) Order 2021

Dear colleagues,

Following the NSW Government's announcement of Saturday 26 June 2021 concerning upgraded COVID-19 restrictions, the *Public Health (COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions) Order 2021* ('the Order') was gazetted and took effect from 7:08pm on Saturday 26 June 2021.

The Order remains in effect until 11:59pm on Friday 9 July 2021, unless repealed earlier.

The following restrictions are now in effect in Regional NSW and are to be observed in all cases:

1. Restrictions on Capacity in Non-Residential Premises

The number of persons permitted in non-residential premises (including places of public worship) is the greater of 25 persons, or the number of persons calculated on permitting 1 person per 4 square metres ('the 4 square metre rule'). **[Clause 11(1)]**

Persons engaged in work within the premises on behalf of the occupier of the premises, or persons on the premises because of an emergency are not included in the calculation of capacity. **[Clause 4(1)]**

2. Restrictions on Singing

Persons in an indoor area of non-residential premises are not to sing. **[Clause 14(1)]**

There is no exemption or exception for choirs or other singing ensembles in a place of public worship.

3. Requirement to Wear Face Masks

It is now mandatory to wear a fitted face covering in any indoor area of non-residential premises. **[Clause 17(1)]**

Anyone under the age of 12 years, or with a physical or medical health condition that makes wearing a mask difficult are exempted. **[Clause 17(2)]**

[Clause 17(3)] permits a face covering to be removed in the following circumstances, provided it is replaced as soon as practicable after the circumstance ends:

- (a) the person is eating or drinking,
- (b) the person is engaging in strenuous physical exercise except in an indoor gym class or dance class,
- (c) the person is communicating with another person who is deaf or hard of hearing,
- (d) the person is at work and the nature of the person's work—
 - (i) makes the wearing of a fitted face covering a risk to the person's, or another person's health and safety, or
 - (ii) means clear enunciation or visibility of the person's mouth is essential,
- (e) the person is asked to remove the fitted face covering to ascertain the person's identity,
- (f) because of an emergency,
- (g) the removal of the fitted face covering is necessary for the proper provision of the goods or service,
- (h) the person is in a correctional centre or other place of custody,
- (i) the person is a patient in a public hospital or private health facility,
- (j) the person is a resident of a residential aged care facility,
- (k) the person is in a school or an early education and care facility,
- (l) the person is a guest in a hotel, motel or other accommodation facility and is in the person's own room,
- (m) the person is on a construction site,
- (n) the person is in the process of getting married,
- (o) the person is working alone in an indoor area like an office until another person enters the area,
- (p) the person is in a vehicle alone or with another person of the same household.

4. Residents of Greater Sydney Region Must Stay at Home

[Clause 20(1)] provides that an affected person must not be away from that person's place of residence without reasonable excuse.

An affected person is defined in **[Clause 19]** as:

- A person whose place of residence or usual place of work is in Greater Sydney, and
- A person who is staying in temporary accommodation in Greater Sydney.

The definition of 'affected person' includes any person who was in Greater Sydney at any time starting at the beginning of 21 June 2021 **[Clause 19(3)]**.

5. Restrictions on Travelling to Greater Sydney

A person outside Greater Sydney is not permitted to enter Greater Sydney without reasonable excuse. **[Clause 21(1)]**

A reasonable excuse includes travelling to the person's place of residence, other circumstances as specified in Schedule 1 of the Order but does not include taking a holiday in Greater Sydney.

It is possible to travel through the Greater Sydney under the following conditions **[Clause 22]**:

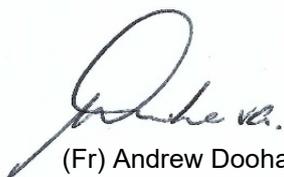
- (a) travels through Greater Sydney in a vehicle if the person does not leave the vehicle while in Greater Sydney, or
- (b) enters Greater Sydney by road and then travels through Greater Sydney by the most practicable direct route, or

- (c) enters Greater Sydney by air and does not leave the airport while in Greater Sydney, or
- (d) enters Greater Sydney, by vessel or aircraft, and then travels directly from the port or airport at which the person arrived to leave Greater Sydney by the most practicable direct route, or
- (e) enters Greater Sydney to travel to a port or airport to leave Greater Sydney and then travels to the port or airport by the most practicable direct route.

Given the timing of the announcement, and the short timeframe before the restrictions took effect, please be aware of the potential difficulties that may arise because some parishioners may not be aware of the changes. I am sure you will exercise your usual good counsel and respond to these difficulties in a firm yet pastoral manner.

If you have any questions about the above information, please get in touch.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Doohan", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

(Fr) Andrew Doohan VG