

# COVID-19 Safety Plan

Salt Church  
275 Keira Street, Wollongong

This COVID-19 Safety Plan has been prepared in line with the [NSW Public Health \(COVID-19 General\) Order 2021](#). It relates to 275 Keira Street Wollongong ('the building'). 'Unvaccinated' means people who have had 1 dose or no doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. 'Vaccinated' means people who have had 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

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## General Safe Health Guidelines

In line with NSW Health Guidelines, we ask anyone (adult or child) who is unwell or displaying possible COVID symptoms not to come to the building, but to remain at home and make use of our livestream. We will also continue to stream our gathering for those who may be part of a high-risk demographic, and for those who do not feel comfortable regathering in person yet. Our livestream gatherings can be viewed at: [www.youtube.com/saltchurch](http://www.youtube.com/saltchurch)

## General Statement on Use of the Building

From 18 Oct to 1 Dec "places of worship re-open". This means our building is open for any of our Church's regular uses of the building. This includes Sunday Church gatherings and also includes the use of the building for other regular events such as: Grow, ministry teams' meetings, mission events, Beginning, use by Small Groups, and other church related events.

However, whilst the building is open for any of our Church's regular uses, users of the building will be required to follow a number of COVID-19 safe practices that are in place to keep members and visitors safe, and to reduce the risk of transmission. Those practices and requirements are set out in the rest of this Safety Plan.

## Access to the Building & Vaccination Requirements

From 18 Oct to 1 Dec all gatherings and events in the building are open to vaccinated and unvaccinated people. No attendees will be required to present proof of vaccination status when entering or using the building. All people are welcome to fellowship with us.

From 18 Oct to 1 Nov only people who live in Greater Sydney (including the Central Coast, Wollongong, Shellharbour and Blue Mountains Local Government Areas) are allowed to access the building. From 1 Nov, anyone who lives in NSW can access the building.

## Before Entering & After Exiting the Building

Before attendees at gatherings and events enter the building, and once they exit the building, the regulations on places of worship no longer apply to them. Instead this set of restrictions applies:

From 18 Oct to 1 Dec up to 50 fully vaccinated people can gather on the concrete footpath outside our building, in the Beaurepaires carpark, and in MacCabe Park. A person who is not vaccinated can only gather with one other person (either vaccinated or unvaccinated) or with the other members of their household in these spaces. From 1 Dec any number of vaccinated or unvaccinated people can gather in these spaces.

## Capacity Limits

From 18 Oct to 1 Dec we will operate at a 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup> limit - the capacity of our building at this limit is 95 people plus staff. From 1 Dec we will operate at a 1 person per 2m<sup>2</sup> limit - the capacity of our building at this limit is 190 people plus staff. Attendees will be counted upon entry and the number of attendees will be capped, if we were to reach our maximum capacity.

**Next Gen:** A ministry leader will monitor room numbers and redistribute children to another space if overcrowding occurs.

## Cleaning

We will clean frequently used areas with disinfectant (including wiping surfaces) prior to each gathering or event. Hand sanitiser will be provided at the door and near any food we serve. We will ensure bathrooms are well stocked with hand soap and paper towels. Signage will be placed around the building with instructions on good hand hygiene practices. Disinfectant solutions will be maintained at an appropriate strength and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Staff and volunteers will wash hands before and after cleaning, with soap and water.

**Next Gen:** All rooms have hand sanitiser available. All leaders and participants are encouraged to clean their hands at the start/end of the program and before/after eating. Kids toys and high touch surfaces will be cleaned with disinfectant after the program and then left in storage until the following program.

## Check-in & Record Keeping

From 18 Oct, and until informed otherwise, all attendees at gatherings or events will be required to record their name, and their mobile number and/or email address as they enter the premises. This will occur either by the person being checked-in through our Church database (which already contains a stored version of these details), or by writing these details on a physical form. These records will be kept digitally in a secure location on the Salt Church file server, and will be used for COVID-19 contact tracing if required.

**Next Gen:** Parents will check-in and check-out their children at a central sign-in desk with adequate space to allow social distancing and clean pens. As parents drop-off and pick-up their children from programs we will encourage them to maintain social distancing. We will record attendance of all children at programs and gatherings in the building. These records will be kept digitally in a secure location on the Salt Church file server, and will be used for COVID-19 contact tracing if required.

## Food

From 18 Oct to 1 Dec we will only serve food in individual packages, with hand sanitiser accessible near all food serving areas. In keeping with restrictions, we will “not allow an unvaccinated adult to consume food or drink at a significant event held on the premises unless the unvaccinated adult is seated.” From 1 Dec we will encourage food to remain as individual packages, though with the option of serving other foods, such as community lunches and dinners, to be distributed by servers (rather than self-service) and in a safe manner.

**Next Gen:** Families are encouraged to bring a labelled fruit/ vegetable snack and water bottle for their child, with allergy friendly snacks where necessary. Where food is provided by Salt Church, we will serve it in individual serving portions and discourage children from sharing their food.

## Masks

From 18 Oct to 1 Dec all people over the age of 12 who enter the building will be required to wear a face mask (other than those with a medical exemption from wearing face masks, and vaccinated staff members using the office spaces in the building - see *Staff & Office Spaces* below). From 1 Dec no people who access the building will be required to wear face masks. We will have masks available for those who do not have one but wish to wear one.

**Next Gen:** Children aged under 12 years are not required to wear masks at any time, though may choose to do so. From 18 Oct to 1 Dec, adults using indoor kids spaces need to wear a mask, except where it interferes with communication or teaching. When teaching from the front, the kids leader doesn't need to wear a mask, but should use appropriate physical distancing. Kids leaders serving outdoors do not need to wear a mask but should still observe social distancing.

## Physical Distancing

We will encourage attendees of the building to maintain a 1.5m physical distance with others outside their household.

**Next Gen:** Physical distancing between children is not required under Australian HPPC guidelines.

## Singing

From 18 Oct to 1 Dec only up to 10 fully vaccinated singers may perform / sing, so we will limit singing to song leaders and this maximum number. From 1 Dec all attendees will be able to sing.

**Next Gen:** Kids programs will not include singing until 1 Dec.

## Staff & Office Spaces

From 18 Oct to 1 Dec fully vaccinated staff will be allowed to work from the building or continue to work from home, if reasonably practicable. Staff who are not fully vaccinated will be required to work from home, if reasonably practicable.

Also, whilst using the office spaces in the building, fully vaccinated staff will not be required to wear face masks, while unvaccinated staff will be required to wear face masks. From 1 Dec all staff will be allowed to work from the building, and face masks will not be required for any staff.

When using the building as an office space, staff will be required to check-in upon entering the building using the Service NSW App check-in QR code, located at the building entrance. Staff have been provided with information and training on COVID-19, including when to get tested, current restrictions, cleaning and safety requirements, and use of the Service NSW App. This has been communicated to staff through emails and ongoing staff meetings. Staff are aware of their leave entitlements if they are sick or are required to self-isolate.

## Ventilation

From 18 October until advised otherwise, we will improve ventilation and air-circulation in the building by using fans and opening doors as appropriate. As much as possible we will follow the recommendations: to avoid directing fans towards people's faces but to aim them towards the ceiling or floor instead, and to limit oscillation of fans.

## Vaccination

We realise vaccination is a complex issue and may raise concerns for some of us. We encourage everyone to make a decision about vaccination that is appropriate for them and their situation. There is diversity in our church family on this matter, but we are still united in Christ. From 18 Oct to 1 Dec all gatherings and events in the building are open to vaccinated and unvaccinated people. No attendees will be required to present proof of vaccination status when entering or using the building. All people are welcome to fellowship with us.

**Next Gen:** We're so thankful for the many people who serve with young people in our Next Gen ministries at Salt. Serving young people carries some specific requirements to help keep them safe, such as godliness, experience, Safe Ministry Training and Working With Children Checks. We've developed a Vaccination policy specific to our Next Gen ministries.

Current NSW Health advice recommends COVID-19 vaccinations to help reduce the spread and severity of COVID-19 infection. In light of this advice, we are asking all adults who serve in Next Gen roles to be fully vaccinated before serving face to face with kids and youth, or to share an appropriate medical exemption. We think this will help keep kids safe and build confidence for our community to visit and gather with our church. We will apply this policy to our Next Gen ministries from 18 Oct until 6 Feb and review at that time.

For members of Salt who are unable to serve in Next Gen ministries because of this policy, we will encourage and support them to find other ways to serve and get involved in our Church community so that we can build our Church up in love.

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If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this COVID-19 Safety Plan, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Michael, Andy, Fiona or me to talk more ([geoff@saltchurch.info](mailto:geoff@saltchurch.info)).

**Geoff Ackman**