# PATHWAYS AND ROADMAPS:CURRENT INFORMATION FOR CHURCHES

**ACT**

Restrictions are being eased from 11:59pm on Thursday, November 11, following the Chief Minister’s [announcement](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2021/next-step-in-act-pathway-forward-brought-forward-by-two-weeks) on Tuesday. (See ABC News coverage [here](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-09/act-covid-restrictions-easing-early-due-to-vaccination-rate/100604754).)

Churches should update their COVIDSafe Plans to reflect these changes. The restrictions will be similar to those before Canberra went into lockdown in August. This may allow a smooth reversion to previous Plans for many churches.

*from November 12*

* Churches will now be allowed 1 per 2sqm indoors.
* The wearing of masks is strongly encouraged for worship indoors, but not required.

Singing is currently permitted. If singing congregations should follow the guidelines on the [ACT Health website](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/protect-yourself#High-risk-activities). This includes:

* Choirs and performers to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from each other and 2 metres from the congregation.
* For congregational singing, this to be included in the Covid Safety Plan, and a distance of 1.5 metres to be maintained.
* Additional cleaning to be undertaken of areas and equipment in range of singers.

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

*from 18 October* ([after 80%](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/rules) double vaccination), restrictions have started easing

* Churches can reopen with density limits (1 person per 4sqm), for all people regardless of vaccination status, with masks required.
* Singing is allowed for up to 10 fully vaccinated performers only. Congregations are not permitted to sing before November 14.
* Unvaccinated children under 16 do not need to be accompanied by a household member or vaccinated adult.
* Wedding ceremonies permitted up to 100 people (persons who are not fully vaccinated may attend weddings with up to 11 people present, including the bride and groom, the person marrying them, two witnesses, a person to record the service, and five guests). Singing and dancing is permitted and people must be seated when eating and drinking.
* Wedding receptions permitted up to 100 people (fully vaccinated only), singing and dancing permitted, eating/drinking seated
* Funerals permitted up to 100 people (persons who are not fully vaccinated may attend funerals with up to ten persons present, plus the person conducting the service and anyone necessary for the conduct of the service.)
* For wedding receptions, note that unvaccinated children under 16 must be accompanied by a household member or vaccinated adult when attending a “higher risk premises”, which includes entertainment and recreation facilities and hospitality venues.

*From November 8*, brought forward from December 1, some restrictions will ease further:

* Churches open for all regardless of vaccination status.
* Congregational singing permitted from the first Sunday after November 8, being Sunday November 14, but only for vaccinated and masks will still be required.
* Density limits will be 1 person per 2sqm.

Wedding and Funerals

* Wedding ceremonies, wedding receptions, and funerals unlimited for vaccinated.
* Wedding ceremonies limited to 5 unvaccinated.
* Funerals limited to 10 unvaccinated.
* Wedding receptions not permitted for unvaccinated.
* For vaccinated: eating and drinking allowed while standing, dancing permitted.
* For unvaccinated: eating and drinking permitted if sitting, dancing not permitted.
* Density limits of 1 per 2sqm still apply in above cases.