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|  27 October 2021 As outlined in the [ACT Government’s COVID-19 Pathway forward](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-r/), from **11.59pm on** **Thursday 28 October 2021** theACT Government is further easing COVID-19 restrictions. |

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| **What does this mean?****Places of worship** can expand their occupancy in accordance with the following directions.What is new:* 25 people across the venue before density limits apply (exc staff and volunteers).
* If more than 25 people, venues can apply:
	+ **One person per four square metres within each indoor space (exc staff), and**
	+ **One person per two square metres within each outdoor space up to 300 people (exc staff).**
* **Choirs should remain at least 1.5 metres away from congregation.  Congregational singing should be minimised.**

**​**The following remains in place:* Everyone (staff and attendees) must:
	+ check in using the Check In CBR App, if aged 16 years or older, and
	+ wear a face mask indoors, if aged 12 years or older (exemptions apply).
* You must display a sign at the entrance to the venue stating the venue’s occupancy.
* You must take all reasonable steps to ensure physical distancing of 1.5m is in place, where practicable.
* Venues must have an up to date COVID-19 Safety Plan.
	+ The COVID-19 Safety Checklist is available to assist small businesses in reviewing or updating your COVID-19 Safety Plan.
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| **Need support in complying with the restrictions?**Resources and frequently asked questions are available to assist you in understanding and complying with the Public Health Directions, these can be found on the [COVID‑19 Business Hub](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-y/). This includes:* Printable posters and fact sheets
* COVID-19 Checklist for business recommencing services
* Business FAQs with commonly asked questions.

**Compliance checks**Compliance with the current Public Health Direction is critical. Authorised Public Health Officers and ACT Policing continue to undertake proactive checks to support compliance and community safety.We would like to thank businesses for supporting a safe return to activities through abiding by the Direction.For others, there is room for improvement to support compliance. Below are the top 5 things inspectors observed and we encourage all businesses to ensure they have in place:1. **Signage** – most businesses did have signage displayed but there were some that were displaying old or incorrect signage.
	* Remember to check your COVID-19 signage at each change of restrictions to ensure they are up to date. Signs can be found on the [business resource page](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-j/).
2. **COVID-19 Safety Plans** – most businesses had a COVID-19 Safety Plan, however there were a few that were out of date as they did not reflect the current COVID-19 restrictions.
	* Remember to review and update your COVID-19 Safety Plan, particularly when there is a change to restrictions. More information can be found in the [Guidelines for your COVID-19 Safety Plan](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-t/).
	* A COVID-19 Safety Checklist for Small Business has also been produced to assist business with the review and development of their COVID Safety Plans.  By completing the checklist, small businesses will satisfy the requirements for a COVID Safety Plan.  The checklist can be found here:
3. **Check In CBR** App– most businesses were using Check In CBR, which is great, but there were some businesses that did not have their business profile setup onsite to allow patrons to use the Check In CBR card.
	* For more information on how to setup and use the business profile in the Check In CBR app, please read [Check In CBR App – Guide for businesses](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-h/).
	* While the Direction allows for the use of papers records in the event of an internet outage – the App now has an offline mode so paper records are no longer required to be maintained.
4. **Occupancy** – some businesses were still unsure on how to calculate their occupancy numbers based on the 1 person per 4 square metre rule.
	* To calculate the allowable COVID-19 occupancy for your business, review the floor plan for your premise to work out the space your patrons can use (usable space). The usable space does not include areas such as staff only areas and toilets.
	* If you are still unsure, please contact the Access Canberra Business Liaison Team on (02) 6205 0900 who can assist.
5. **Mandatory Face masks**– most staff and patrons were wearing masks, however there were still some staff who either were not wearing, or not properly wearing, masks.
	* Masks are one of the key controls to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. See  [how to wear a mask](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-k/) for further guidance.

Non-compliance with the Public Health Direction can result in regulatory action and serious penalties may apply. This includes the issue of an infringement notice of up to **$1,000** for an individual and **$5,000** for a corporation.**More information*** read the [business FAQ](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-u/) answering some of the commonly asked questions we’ve received from businesses
* call the Access Canberra Business Liaison Team on (02) 6205 0900
* read the current [ACT Public Health Directions](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-o/)
* visit [www.covid19.act.gov.au](https://accesscanberra.cmail20.com/t/d-l-atruyhl-tujtftdih-b/)
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