

Dear proprietor and industry partners

Changes to Public Health Directions – Places of Worship

As foreshadowed last week, further easing of restrictions came into effect at **9am today, 2 December 2020**.

What is changing for Places of Worship

The most significant change is the ability for places of worship to increase occupancy inside venues if they are using the [Check In CBR app](#) to collect patron contact details.

The [Check In CBR app](#) is free, secure and convenient and enables ACT Health to quickly access patron information to quickly alert people who may have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 if required.

Occupancy Levels – There will be three options available

- **Option 1:** 25 people (excluding staff) across the whole venue.
OR
- **Option 2: Where the [Check In CBR app](#) is used:**
 - one person per two square metres of usable space in each indoor and outdoor space (excluding staff), with a maximum of 500 people for each space.

To utilise the updated occupancy rules, you must have registered for the [Check In CBR app](#) by Wednesday, 16 December 2020 at the very latest. We encourage you to register early to ensure that you can comply with the new Directions by this date.

- Information on how to register for the free 'Check In' CBR app is available at <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-and-work/check-in-cbr>

OR

- **Option 3: Where the [Check In CBR app](#) is NOT used:**
 - one person per four square metres of usable space in each indoor space (excluding staff), with a maximum of 500 people for each space, and
 - one person per two square metres of usable space in each outdoor space (excluding staff), with a maximum of 500 people for each space.

Key points with the changes

- Updated COVID-19 occupancy signage is available [here](#).
- Businesses, that have other electronic sign in systems to record patron details for other regulatory/membership purposes, must run both systems in parallel if they wish to move to a one person per two square metre density calculation (ie. your existing system does not replace the need for the [Check In CBR app](#) to be used).

What will stay the same

- **Signage** - All places of worship must clearly display their occupancy allowance at the entrance to the venue and each individual usable space, where separate spaces exist.
- **COVID-19 Safety Plan** – If you have gatherings over 25 people, you must develop and follow a **COVID Safety Plan**. It is important that COVID Safety Plans are updated regularly, to reflect changes in restrictions.
 - *Note: COVID-19 safety plans must be available for inspection by an authorised officer – it is strongly recommended all venues keep them readily accessible at their sites.*
- **Contact Tracing** – Places of worship must provide a visitor book or make the **Check In CBR app** available for use, so that attendees can enter their first name, contact phone number, and date and time of their visit if they choose.

Further information:

- Further information is available on the ACT Government’s website <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au>.
- The updated Public Health Direction can be found - <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/what-you-can-do/act-public-health-directions>.
- The Access Canberra Business Liaison Team is available to answer questions or provide advice. Reach the team on (02) 6205 0900.

Your ongoing cooperation and proactive compliance with the Public Health Direction is greatly appreciated as we work to support our community’s safety and Canberra’s recovery from COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

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