



Mount Waverley Uniting Church

Covid-Safe Requirements for Church Services and Church Groups

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Ed. Paul Kirton 0419 576 342

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This document describes Mount Waverley Uniting Church's current requirements for conducting covid-safe church services and church group activities. It includes our expectations for group leaders and participants. The Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing. We thank everyone for continuing to care for each other and for helping to keep each other safe.

All Government, Synod and Presbytery requirements must be complied with.

Participant Responsibilities

1. Participants must not attend if they are unwell.
2. Face masks are to be used when relevant government restrictions are put in place. Face masks are recommended when adequate social distancing cannot be maintained, and when in the presence of vulnerable people.
3. Where possible, it is recommended that participants maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres from all other participants.
4. Avoid crowding while entering or exiting.
5. All participants should sanitise their hands before and after their session and after touching frequently contacted surfaces. Sanitiser stations are available at the front and rear entrances to our church buildings.
6. Any participant who tests positive to covid-19 and attended during their infectious period must notify their Group Leader.
See the section below: *If a participant later tests positive to Covid-19*

Group Leader Responsibilities

1. Attendance records should to be kept for all indoor gatherings that last two hours or more in the same air space. If an attendee later tests positive to covid in the next two days, everyone who attended will be considered a social covid contact.
See the section below: *If a participant later tests positive to Covid-19*
2. We recommend keeping doors and windows open to improve ventilation where possible.

3. Currently there are no Government specified room capacity limits for the activities undertaken at church facilities. If capacity limits are imposed by Government at any time these must be complied with. If capacity limits are likely to be exceeded a booking system should be used to reserve places.

Responsibilities if using the kitchen to serve drinks & food

1. One person serves or distributes food or drinks. For example, one person uses the boiling water unit for hot water for tea. Another person serves food.
2. No food, drink, crockery, utensils, vessels or other equipment is permitted to be shared by participants.
3. It is recommended that single use items are used to serve food or drink, such as paper plates, bamboo forks and cardboard cups.
4. Any crockery, cutlery and glasses used from the cupboards must be washed through the dishwasher. Instructions are near the dishwasher.
5. If used, the ovens and/or microwave must be wiped out.

If a participant later tests positive to Covid-19

1. Follow the current Government advice in Checklists for Covid Cases and Covid Contacts at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-contacts
www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-cases
See summary below.
2. Please advise Paul Kirton 0419 576 342 of the sessions attended while someone was infectious.

Summary of some of the most relevant information for church groups:

Self-administered rapid antigen tests are now usually preferred over PCR tests.

Positive results should be reported via the Victorian Coronavirus website or hotline 1800 675 398.

Positive covid cases are considered to be infectious from 2 days before they develop symptoms or 2 days before the date of the test that returned a positive result, whichever is the earlier.

Social covid contacts are people who have spent 15 minutes of face-to-face contact, or spent 2 hours in the same indoor space (e.g. church) with a positive covid case while they are infectious.

It is the responsibility of the positive covid case to inform their social covid contacts. For example, if someone attending church subsequently tests positive to covid we would consider their social contacts to include the people sitting either side in church, the people they sat with during morning tea and the people with whom they had face-to-face conversations.

If you are a social covid contact and develop symptoms, you should get tested and stay isolated until you receive a negative test result.

If you don't have symptoms, you are strongly recommended to use a daily rapid antigen test for 5 days.

It is strongly recommended that you stay covid-safe at all times by keeping 1.5m distance,

sanitising your hands and wearing a mask. It is also strongly recommended that you avoid contact with vulnerable people.

Anyone who develops flu like symptoms (runny nose, fever, cough, sore throat or difficulty breathing) is strongly recommended to get tested and remain isolated until they receive a negative result.

If you test positive on any test you are then considered a covid case and you are strongly recommended to isolate for 5 days from the date of the test that returned the positive result. At the end of the 5 days, if you have no symptoms you may leave isolation. If you still have symptoms you should seek medical advice.

Call a doctor or Nurse On Call on 1300 606 024 available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For three days after you leave isolation it is strongly recommended that you keep 1.5m distance from others and not visit vulnerable people like aged care facilities.

Additional Requirements for Church Services

We strongly recommend wearing a face mask at all times during church services, and particularly while singing, because we cannot effectively socially distance.