COVIDSAFE PLAN - CHURCH PREMISES

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Government has announced recommendations that church services will shortly be able to re-start again. It remains the domain of State governments to legislate these recommendations and we encourage you to keep current with the latest state restrictions.

This resource is provided as a general plan. It is critical that you stay informed where you are in relation to the stage in the **Pandemic Life-Cycle,** and apply the principles as appropriate.

ABOUT THIS PLAN

This plan is designed to give practical guidance to churches to enable them to successfully comply with government standards for church based services. It should be noted that the Government requirement is a **COVIDSafe Plan** on every premises. This is because every premises has its own particular issues to deal with.

As we are living in a fast moving, constantly changing environment, we are encouraging local leadership to meet regularly to continue to monitor their arrangements in line with state government requirements and diocesan directives.

The process of creating a CovidSafe environment follows the standard **Risk Assessment Process**. In summary, this is:

1. Identify your risk – Covid-19 is a highly infectious disease with potentially fatal consequences to particular groups in our community.
2. Assess your risk – The likelihood of this risk is "Likely" and the impact may be "Severe" so the rating is **High**.
3. Control your risk – Mitigate the risk by implementing risk reduction strategies
4. Review control measures – Local churches need to take ultimate responsibility for keeping a COVIDSafe premises. They will need to continue to monitor their environments in conjunction with Diocesan policy and reporting requirements.

	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Severe
Very Likely	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High	High
Likely	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High
Possible	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	Med Hi
Unlikely	Low	Low Med	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi
Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low Med	Medium	Medium

THE TEMPLATE PLAN

AIRS has provided a template Word document called "The COVIDSafe Plan (template) – Church Premises". The template is designed to be adapted to local circumstances. Please feel free to amend as appropriate to your local circumstances.

Some important things that you will need to consider when working through the template:

1. Who in the local leadership needs to meet and agree the plan for each premises?
2. Within our church, who will be the person allocated to be the COVIDSafe Warden?
3. Who will be responsible for keeping current of both the diocesan and the state government restrictions on meetings?
4. Is the incident management plan workable in our local environment?

The best way to adapt the template is to work through it during your first leadership meeting!

COMMUNICATION

As with all plans, communication is the key to effective implementation. It is highly recommended that you develop a communication plan to ensure that all people attending your premises are clear on your commitment to keeping them safe.

POSTERS

There is a series of posters available to help you with signage at your church. There is both color and black and white versions depending on your access to printers. We do however suggest that high quality color printing be used. Often your local shopping center has printing places that can assist you with this.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please work through your normal diocesan communication channels in the first instance.
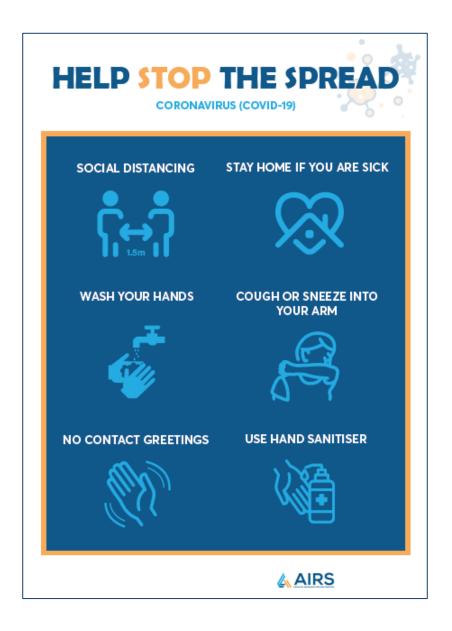
POSTER 1: Recommended for the front door and/or in the foyer / reception

POSTER 2: Recommended for the front door, in general meeting areas and in the bathrooms

**POSTER 3: Recommended to be located in the foyer and at the registration desk.
(Different versions based on the state government restrictions.)**