

# Office of Local Government



## COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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16 June 2020

### New Public Health Order and FAQs released

A remade [Public Health Order](#) easing a number of restrictions came into effect on June 13, with the following venues allowed to reopen:



- Fitness centres, gymnasiums, Pilates, yoga and dance studios with up to 100 people allowed in an indoor venue
- Community centres, including their recreational facilities
- Some indoor recreational facilities including pools and saunas with restricted numbers
- Tattoo and massage parlours, and,
- Food courts.

Other changes included:

- The number of people allowed to visit homes has increased from 5 to 20
- The number of people allowed to gather outdoors increased from 10 to 20, and,

- On compassionate grounds, restrictions on funerals will immediately be eased to allow the 'one person per four square metre' rule to apply.

The four-square-metre rule must be applied at all times, along with completion of COVIDSafe plans.

A Frequently Asked Questions document providing further information about the new Public Health Order can be found here.

More information on what is permissible can also be found here.



## Further restrictions to ease from 1 July

Restrictions imposed during COVID-19 will be further eased next month, subject to strict social distancing rules.

From July 1, the new rules keeping the State COVIDSafe mean:

- The number of people allowed inside indoor venues will be determined by the 'one person per 4 square metre' rule, with no upper limit. This includes function centres. All activity must be seated only.
- An increase in the number of people allowed on trains, buses, ferries and trams
- An increase in the number of passengers allowed on regional transport services
- Cultural and sporting events at outdoor venues with a maximum capacity of 40,000 will be allowed up to 25 per cent of their normal capacity. Events must be ticketed and seated and follow strict guidelines.

All other restrictions including 20 guests inside the home and 20 for outside gatherings remain the same.

## Councils empowered to fast-track Planning decisions

Local councils can now tap into the tools, guidance, and support of the NSW Government's successful Planning System Acceleration Program to fast-track council-led planning projects and help their communities rebound from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic faster.



Councils that agree to run their own accelerated assessment program will receive:

- Key tools and documents from the State's Planning System Acceleration Program that will enable councils to implement a transparent and robust fast-tracked assessment process at a local level
- Access to the Government's new 'One Stop Shop' that has been set up to manage complex planning projects and coordination between government agencies
- Training and support from senior planners within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to establish local accelerated assessment programs, and
- Direction from the NSW Government to State and regional planning panels to support efforts by councils to get shovel-ready projects out the door faster.

[Councils interested in taking part in the Council Accelerated Assessment Program can find more information here.](#)



### Council webinar with Minister Dominello

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is hosting a council webinar with Minister for Customer Service Victor Dominello (pictured) on Tuesday (June 23) from 11am-12pm.

The webinar is part of a series of council webinars coordinated by Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock with relevant Ministers and public officials across Government to keep mayors and general

managers up to date on the latest COVID-19 information and answer their questions.

Invitations have been distributed to mayors and general managers with information on how they can register for the webinar. Councils are also encouraged to submit questions they would like answered during the webinar when they register.

A recording of the webinar will be made available on the OLG website.

A recording of last week's council webinar with Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Minister Hancock can be found [here](#).

Further council webinars with Ministers will be announced shortly.

## Free COVID-19 testing social media tiles

A series of social media tiles promoting free COVID-19 testing in various community languages are available for download [here](#).



The 'Getting tested at a COVID 19 clinic is safe, simple and free' slides are a series of photos and text in JPG format that can be used on a carousel on Facebook or as a series of pictures in newsletters.

Slide 6, 'No payment required', is an optional file specifically designed for international students and other temporary visa holders.

The slides are also available in community languages in Arabic, Bangla, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Greek, Indonesian, Macedonian, Mongolian, Nepali, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese.

These slides are also currently being translated into Filipino, Portuguese, and Russian and these will be available shortly.



## Information and resources

[Guidelines for COVID Safe workplaces](#)  
Safety plans for a range of businesses and organisations can be found [here](#), and those in the sport and recreation sector [here](#).

[Health signage available for download](#)

Promote safety measures and social distancing in your community by accessing downloadable NSW Health signage [here](#).

[Spreading simple health messages for older Australians](#)

Factsheets to ensure older Australians stay healthy, stay safe, and stay connected are available [here](#).

[Job Retention Allowance payment applications](#)

Councils can now apply for the Job Retention Allowance payment of \$1,500 per fortnight, per eligible employee. Find out how in this [circular](#).

[OLG FAQs provide detailed guidance to councils](#)

Councils can access detailed FAQs on:

- [Local government legislative amendments](#)
- [Local government economic stimulus package](#)

[Quicklinks](#)

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#), [Commonwealth Government](#), [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), and [NSW Office of Local Government](#) websites.

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