

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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29 September 2020

Public Health Order revisions take effect

A new [Public Health Order](#) came into effect yesterday (September 28) concerning revised COVID-19 safety plans, checklists, and changes to restrictions on gathering and movement.



Health

Safety plans have been updated for:

- Cinemas
- Conference and function venues
- Places of worship
- Funerals and wakes, and
- Non-food markets.

And checklists have been updated in relation to:

- Weddings
- Conferences, functions and corporate events
- Restaurants and cafes
- Pubs and clubs

- Community sports
- Function centres, and
- Strip clubs.

For more information on safety plans and checklists by industry type please [click here](#).

Entertainment facilities including theatres, cinemas and concert halls across NSW are now able to increase their capacity to 50 per cent and corporate events at function centres to 300 attendees.

The relaxed restrictions mean:

- corporate events and function centres can host up to 300 people. Venues can only increase capacity following the one person per four square metre rule, and
- theatres, cinemas and concert halls can sell seated tickets at 50 per cent capacity, to a maximum of 1000 tickets.

Entertainment venues must have COVID safety plans in place and follow the Public Health Order.



Councils and the COVID Safe Summer Plan

Councils should ensure processes and practices are in place to support COVID Safe public spaces and beaches as the warmer weather approaches.

The NSW Government has prepared [a range of materials](#) to support councils as part of the recently launched COVID Safe Summer Plan.

Councils are reminded to work with their police local area commands on management strategies at specific sites to prevent overcrowding.

Many councils are well advanced in their planning and preparation and OLG thanks them for their proactive approach to helping to keep their communities safe this summer.

OLG has also previously issued the [Water Safety Practice Note](#) to support council management of broader water safety at public swimming pools, waterways and beaches.

Guidance is also available on playgrounds and can be found [here](#).

Several councils have sought clarification on the gathering rules associated with beaches and outdoor spaces following yesterday's webinar with the Minister for Health and Medical Research and Chief Health Officer.

NSW Health has confirmed that the advice associated with public gatherings for beaches is:

- Consideration of 1 person per 4 square metres
- Individual groups of no larger than 20 people, and
- Maintenance of 1.5 metres distance between groups.

In addition, outdoor venues that are used for organised major recreational events are limited to 500 persons unless patrons are ticketed and seated.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your OLG Council Engagement Manager.

Queensland border restrictions updated

The Queensland Government has announced changes that affect Northern NSW from 1am on October 1, including extending the NSW border zone and allowing those residents to travel anywhere in Queensland for any purpose.



The changes include:

- The [NSW border zone](#) will be extended
- The Queensland border zone will no longer exist
- Queensland residents will be able to travel anywhere in the NSW border zone for any purpose, and
- NSW border zone residents will be able to travel anywhere in Queensland for any purpose.

The direction has also been updated to provide a right of entry to people coming to Queensland to respond to an emergency energy, drinking water, sewerage, liquid fuel, resources or telecommunications event.

For more information on the changes please [click here](#).

Council webinar with Minister Hazzard

A recording of the OLG hosted council webinar with Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard (pictured) that took place yesterday (September 28) will be online shortly.



The webinars are part of a series 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.

Recordings of past webinars are available on [the OLG website](#).

Further council webinars will be announced in due course.



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](#).

[COVID Safe Summer Plan](#)

The NSW Government has launched the COVID Safe Summer Plan to help managers of beaches, parklands and public space to make this a safe summer for all. Find out more by clicking [here](#). Councils can access social media tiles [here](#).

[Keep Our Mob Safe campaign](#)

NSW Health in partnership with the Department of Customer Service has developed the Keep Our Mob Safe campaign to prepare and empower Aboriginal people to keep themselves and their communities safe and healthy amid COVID-19. The resources include flyers, posters, and social media tiles and are available for download [here](#).

[Job Retention Allowance payment applications](#)

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

[Together against COVID-19](#)

A pack outlining strategy, plans, and controls for communication to build social cohesion as the COVID-19 crisis evolves can be found [here](#).

[Stakeholder toolkit in community languages](#)

Downloadable translated resources and direct links to information on how to stay COVID Safe in the community and specific resources for businesses can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

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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