

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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10 November 2020

Safety guidance for large events

The NSW Government has developed guidance to help create a safe environment for large events in NSW.



The guidance aims to support organisers of large events and gatherings to prepare a [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#).

The potential risks, along with potential mitigation measures that can be put in place to help create a safe environment, include:

- If a person infected with COVID-19 attends an event
- Multi-day events
- Crowding and close proximity
- Queuing
- The service of alcohol.

The safety guidance can be accessed [here](#).



COVID-19 resources in community languages

Councils are encouraged to share through their channels a pack containing translated downloadable resources, including specific resources for businesses and direct links to information on how to stay COVID Safe in the community.

The pack can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

The [nsw.gov.au website](https://www.nsw.gov.au) can be translated into over 50 languages via the 'Language' option in the top right hand corner.

The content on this website is being continuously updated with the latest information, including FAQs.

How to ensure agricultural shows and field days are COVID Safe

With country shows set to resume in NSW early next year, it is important that regional and rural communities are aware of the available resources and guidance on how to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan for a regional agricultural show.



Key points include:

- Regional agricultural shows must complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan
- Regional agricultural shows should also consider the benefits of [registering as COVID Safe](#)
- Complete the plan in consultation with show workers, then share it with them, and
- Keep the plan up to date.

There is a separate COVID-19 Safety Plan required for anyone obtaining the NSW Agricultural Worker Permit. This permit will allow workers to travel between NSW and Victoria under strict conditions.

An agricultural worker is a person performing an agricultural industry activity

that is not able to be performed remotely. It includes a seasonal worker performing an agricultural industry activity.

Employers or clients of agriculture workers must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place to exempt workers from hotel quarantine on arrival, and workers must comply with the plan and carry the plan with them at all times.

More information can be found [here](#).



Making outdoor dining approvals easier

The NSW Government is slashing red tape to allow small bars and pubs across the State to apply for an outdoor dining licence without needing planning approval.

The proposal aims to facilitate outdoor dining by extending the existing exempt development pathway which is currently in place for outdoor dining in cafes and restaurants, to small bars and pubs.

The Government is working to condense what was a process that took several months involving multiple agencies, into a streamlined process which will save businesses significant time and effort.

The Government thanks councils which have already indicated their interest in participating or are taking action to explore greater opportunities for outdoor dining.

A 12-month trial of a streamlined application process for outdoor dining and drinking is already underway in The Rocks, with a second pilot set to start in the Sydney CBD in the coming weeks.

With restrictions easing, as set out in the latest [Public Health Orders](#), there is a tremendous opportunity for businesses to expand their trade, create jobs, and stimulate local economies.

Councils can make the most of this opportunity by identifying areas within their towns, such as central business districts and high streets, where outdoor dining is appropriate and encourage businesses to consider using these areas for outdoor dining purposes.

Councils can also examine how outdoor dining can be fast-tracked by

considering the issues associated with approving outdoor dining sites.

The Office of Local Government has provided councils with more information about how they can make the outdoor dining process simpler and easier for business owners.

The Public Health Orders and the Small Business Commissioner's Outdoor Dining Policy and User Guide also contain useful information to assist councils with the considerations surrounding outdoor dining.

Councils wanting to express an interest or seek more information about participating in the streamlined outdoor dining process should contact their Office of Local Government Council Engagement Manager at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 02 4428 4100.

More clarity for businesses to stay open after COVID case

Business owners in NSW will have better clarity about the requirements to clean their premises following a positive case of COVID-19 with new guidelines now available online.



SafeWork NSW has also developed practical advice tailored to each industry to help them operate their day-to-day business safely.

More information on the updated guidelines can be found at [here](#).



NSW to reopen Victorian border

Councils are reminded that the NSW Government will reopen the border to Victoria at 12.01am on November 23.

The reopening will be a welcome relief to residents and businesses in

border towns impacted by the border closure.

It will also provide people with the confidence to make plans, book holidays

and reunite with family members in the lead up to Christmas.

The NSW Government will continue to work with its Victorian counterparts to protect the health and safety of the community and has strengthened processes to support contact tracing across the two states.

The current restrictions on movement across the NSW-Victoria border will stay in place until the reopening on November 23.

Under the Public Health (COVID-19 Border Control) Order (No 2) 2020, anyone who has been in Victoria in the past 14 days must not enter NSW unless:

- They hold a current entry permit
- They are authorised to enter under the order.

Only border region residents can travel within the NSW/Victoria border region. All other NSW residents who travel to Victoria including within the border region will be unable to return to NSW without a current entry permit or authorisation to enter under the Order.

For more information on the current restrictions still in place please [click here](#).

QR codes soon to be mandatory for hospitality venues

Councils are encouraged to promote the mandatory use of QR Codes for all NSW hospitality venues from November 23.

Customer contact details collected by pubs, restaurants, bars, and other businesses make contact tracing more efficient and help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

QR codes are a contactless, hygienic and private method of collecting details. A free QR code check in option is available for businesses and organisations that register as COVID Safe.

For more information please visit [this webpage](#), which will be updated as further information is available.

To find out more about QR code options please [click here](#).





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](#).

[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](#).

[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](#).

[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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