

# Office of Local Government



## COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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10 December 2020

### COVID-19 festive season advice

An FAQ document has been prepared by NSW Health to ensure people have an informed and COVID Safe Christmas and holiday season.



The comprehensive document covers rules on gatherings and carol singing, holidaying away from home, whether testing clinics will be open, and much more.

Councils are encouraged to publicise these FAQs through their networks. The FAQs can be found [here](#).

A range of social media resources geared towards the festive season are also available for download. These resources cover end of year celebrations, Christmas shopping, heatwave and summer advice, and outdoor gatherings.

The resources can be accessed [here](#).

## A different Australia Day 2021 across NSW and Sydney



Australia Day 2021 celebrations in Sydney will be different next January 26, in keeping with COVID Safe plans, but it will still be a day to inspire and unify the community.

NSW frontline workers will be offered passes to attend the Australia Day Live concert at the Sydney Opera House Forecourt. This concert will be broadcast live to the nation on ABC TV for everyone to enjoy.

Across NSW, many councils are still planning Australia Day activities for their communities, and it is the responsibility of each Local Government Area to ensure their events are COVID Safe and in line with Public Health Orders. Recent changes to Public Health Orders will allow councils to host larger outdoor community events and citizenship ceremonies.

The Sydney CBD program will have significant changes to key events. The Sydney Harbour daytime program will not be taking place as COVID Safe crowd management around the foreshore cannot be guaranteed.

The Australia Day 2021 program will include:

- The WugulOra Morning Ceremony at Barangaroo Reserve which is a free ticketed event for those who register. This event is a reminder that Australia's First Nation's people are the foundation of our nation's story and continue to maintain the world's oldest living culture. The event will be broadcast live on ABC TV or streamed on ABC iView.
- A Salute to Australia at Government House, Sydney at midday, which will be a broadcast-only event with invited frontline guests in attendance. This will consist of a 21-gun 'Salute to Australia' by the Australian Army, Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force, an address from the Governor of NSW, a citizenship ceremony and stories showcasing the extraordinary contributions of our frontline personnel. Elements of the ceremony will be broadcast on the day.
- The Oz Day 10K Wheelchair Race in The Rocks.
- In the evening, the Australia Day Live concert at the Sydney Opera House Forecourt will honour our frontline personnel who will be invited to attend the concert as a way to thank them for their tireless efforts.

The broader community is invited to watch the live national broadcast on ABC TV or stream on ABC iView.

As with arrangements for New Year's Eve, if you plan to attend Circular Quay in the evening of Australia Day, you will need to have a restaurant booking or hold a ticket for Australia Day Live.

The precinct will close to the general public from 5pm. A similar COVID pass system that is rolling out for New Year's Eve will be in place for Australia Day, with further details to be provided in January.

Further details on the Australia Day 2021 program, visit [www.australiaday.com.au](http://www.australiaday.com.au).



## 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-19 resources in community languages](#)

Councils are encouraged to share through their channels a pack containing translated downloadable resources. The pack can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

### [NSW-Victoria border communications pack](#)

A stakeholder communications pack prepared by the Department of Customer Service regarding the opening of the NSW-Victoria border is available for download [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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