

# Information for religious services, places of worship, memorials and funerals



Changes have been made to allow more people at religious services, places of worship, memorials and funerals.

From 1 May 2021, directions under the *Public Health Act 1997* (**Mass gatherings - No. 4** and **Management of premises - No. 12**) have been changed to allow more people to attend religious services and funeral services in Tasmania.

**Smaller indoor gatherings** at churches, places of worship and memorial and funeral homes may now accommodate up to 250 people or 100 per cent of seating capacity, whichever is fewer, without assessment or approval.

Staff, clergy, church attendants, choir members and anyone assisting with or performing the service are not included in the 250-person limit.

**Larger gatherings** of more than 250 people may be allowed, but organisers must first register with **Business Tasmania** for approval and adhere to the relevant restrictions.

- **At venues with seating** where more than 250 people will be attending and will be seated most of the time, the maximum number of attendees may be up to 100 per cent of seating capacity.
- **In unseated areas**, such as a foyer, a maximum of one person per two square metres of floor space may be allowed.
- People are no longer required to wear a face mask (or fitted face covering) at larger gatherings.

## Registration, assessment and approval process

Applications for new events or gatherings of more than 250 people indoors and more than 1000 people outdoors must be submitted to Business Tasmania for assessment under the **Framework for COVID-19 Safe Events and Activities in Tasmania**.

It may take around three weeks to complete the application process, depending on the number of applications, the need to seek further information from applicants, and availability of qualified staff.

## Keeping on top of COVID

When people gather in high densities, especially indoors, there is increased risk of the spread of COVID-19, so there are still important conditions in place to reduce that risk, including:

- A COVID-19 Safety Plan must be developed and used for all events and venues, and the responsible person (or contact person) must be able to present the plan to a Public Health officer, WorkSafe Tasmania officer or other authorised person immediately upon request.
- Information must be collected to support contact tracing, in case someone with COVID-19 is linked to the setting.

It is important to keep emphasising the need to maintain COVID-safe behaviours, including:

- maintaining 1.5 metre physical distancing where possible
- washing and sanitising hands
- staying home and arranging testing if experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms
- covering coughs and sneezes.

## Using Check in TAS for contact tracing

The Tasmanian Government now requires use of the free Check in TAS app to collect contact tracing information. This is done by requiring people to scan a unique QR code when entering the premises or venue.

After registering for Check in TAS, your organisation will receive a welcome pack that includes a poster (or posters) with your unique QR code. You can register for Check in TAS [online](#). More information is available [here](#).

From 1 May 2021, you must display your organisation's Check in TAS QR code in prominent places at all entrances so people can check in. Each person 16 years of age or older must be checked in individually, but one person may check in multiple people on their behalf through one device.

If anyone does not have or cannot use a smartphone or the Check in TAS app, they may also be checked in by the organiser or attendants at the gathering. If no suitable device is available, their details may be recorded with pen and paper.

## How can I find out more?

To find out more about the management of people at your service or event, contact Business Tasmania on **1800 440 026** or by email to: [ask@business.tas.gov.au](mailto:ask@business.tas.gov.au).

To find out more about Check in TAS, contact the Public Health Hotline on **1800 671 738** or visit [www.checkin.tas.gov.au](http://www.checkin.tas.gov.au).

## Always follow Public Health advice to Keep on Top of COVID

