

Public health directions relevant to pastoral visits and livestreaming – as at 1 April 2020

	Directions
Commonwealth	<p>Commonwealth and State and Territory directives advise that Australians should stay at home, unless</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • going to work or education (if you are unable to do so at home) • shopping for essential supplies such as groceries, return home without delay • going out for personal exercise in the neighbourhood, on your own or with one other • attending medical appointments or compassionate visits
NSW	<p>The Restrictions on Gatherings order directs that a person must not, without reasonable excuse, leave the person's place of residence other than for:</p> <p>a) obtaining food or other goods and services, or</p> <p>(b) travelling for the purposes of work or education if the person cannot do it at home, or</p> <p>(c) exercise, or</p> <p>(d) medical or caring reasons.</p> <p>Examples of reasonable excuses outlined in Schedule 1 include:</p> <p>2 travelling for the purposes of work if the person cannot work from the person's place of residence</p> <p>6 obtaining medical care or supplies or health supplies or fulfilling carer's responsibilities</p> <p>7 attending a wedding or a funeral in the circumstances referred to in clause 6(2)(d) and (e) or 7(1)(h)</p> <p>9 providing care or assistance (including personal care) to a vulnerable person or providing emergency assistance</p> <p>12 accessing public services (whether provided by Government, a private provider or a non-Government organisation), including- (a) social services, and (b) employment services, and (c) domestic violence services, and (d) mental health services, and (e) services provided to victims (including as victims of crime)</p> <p>14 for a person who is a priest, minister of religion or member of a religious order going to the person's place of worship or providing pastoral care to another person</p> <p>15 avoiding injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm</p> <p>16 for emergencies or compassionate reasons</p>

	<p>AND</p> <p>Requirements to limit gatherings to no more than 2 people do not apply to: a gathering to provide care or assistance to a vulnerable person, (h) a gathering to provide emergency assistance,</p> <p>Nothing in the clause on the closure of business, community facilities and places of worship prevents: the use of premises- (a) to provide a service to assist vulnerable members of the public, for example a food bank or a service providing for the needs of homeless persons, or (b) as an early education and care facility</p> <p>Place of public worship means: a building or place used for the purpose of religious worship by a congregation or religious group, whether or not the building or place is also used for counselling, social events, instruction or religious training.</p> <p>See: https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/_emergency/Public%20Health%20(COVID-19%20Restrictions%20on%20Gathering%20and%20Movement)%20Order%202020.pdf</p>
ACT	Will implement Commonwealth announced restrictions regarding leaving the houses for non-essential reasons and the 2 person rule but has not issued further guidance.
Victoria	<p>Has applied the 2 person gathering rule applies inside and outside the house (except for household members and with the stated exceptions for weddings and funerals) - see Stay at Home Direction.</p> <p>In addition, residents can only leave the house for one of five essential reasons. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shopping for food or other essential goods and services • Work and education • Care and compassionate reasons • Exercise • Other extenuating circumstances. <p>Extenuating circumstances include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing care and support to a person who has particular needs due to age and infirmity, disability, illness, chronic health condition or other matters related to health e.g. pregnancy or mental health.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To attend a residential aged care facility to provide care and support in accordance with the Aged Care Facility Directions. Also to visit a hospital. - To attend work (whether paid or voluntary) including for charitable purposes (Part 4 11 c states that for acceptable reasons only, the person may enter their workplace regardless of how many people are in that place. It also permits people to travel in a group to that place). - A person may leave the (home) premises only if it is not practicable to work from those premises. <p>See: https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202003/Stay%20at%20Home%20Directions%20.pdf</p>
Queensland	<p>Is enforcing the 2person limit for indoor and outdoor settings (except for household members and for weddings and funerals in line with restrictions).</p> <p>Residents can only leave the house for one of eight essential reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Obtaining food or other essential goods or services. ii. Obtaining medical treatment or other healthcare services. iii. Engaging in physical exercise iv. Performing work on behalf of an employer that is engaged in essential business, activity or undertaking (<i>see classification of essential services below</i>), and the work to be performed is of a nature that cannot reasonably be performed from the person's principal place of residence. v. Visiting a terminally ill relative or to attend a funeral. vi. To provide assistance, care or support to an immediate member of the person's family. vii. Attending any court of Australia or to comply with or give effect to orders of the court. viii. Attending a childcare facility, school, university or other educational institution, to the extent care or instruction cannot reasonably be obtained in the person's principal place of residence. <p>Non Essential Business, Activity and Undertaking closure direction (27 March):</p> <p>A non-essential business, activity and undertaking includes previously identified premises – including Places of worship except for restricted weddings and funerals. Community and recreation centres may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services, with social distancing observed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. A person who owns, controls or operates a non-essential business, activity, or undertaking in the State of Queensland, including operating at a private residence, must not operate the business, activity or undertaking during the period specified in paragraph 5, subject to the exceptions set out in Column 2 of the Definitions table at paragraph 8.

	<p>6. Despite paragraph 6, a person who owns, controls or operates a non-essential business, activity or undertaking may continue to do so online or through the internet, unless stated otherwise in Column 1 of the Definitions table at paragraph 8.</p> <p>See: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/home-confinement-direction and https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/non-essential-business-closure-direction</p>
NT	<p>The Northern Territory Direction to Close Public Places, Services and Activities states that:</p> <p>Religious premises are to be closed, with the exception of providing allowed weddings and funerals.</p> <p>The Northern Territory announced it would not be enforcing the two-person gathering rules. However it advises that “as a general rule you should stay home unless it is absolutely necessary that you go out”, “work from home if you can: and “ limit the number of guests you have in your home”.</p> <p>The following activities and services are exempt from direction 5: (a) hairdressing; (b) essential volunteer or public services provided at a venue otherwise closed under that direction;</p> <p>To avoid doubt, these Directions do not prohibit any service or activity provided or conducted electronically or online.</p> <p>The 10 person limit remains for now but further restrictions may be introduced.</p> <p>See https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/809955/cho-direction-15-close-public-places-services-activities.pdf and https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/809953/cho-direction-14-gatherings.pdf</p>
South Australia	South Australia has not issued updated directions since 25 March.

Western Australia	Places of worship must be suspended, with exceptions for weddings and funerals. Updated directions have been issued specifying certain affected activities that must not take place. This does not include church related activities e.g. pastoral care visits or organising livestreaming services.
Tasmania	<p>The 2 person gathering rule applies inside and outside the house (except for household members). People may leave their homes for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) shopping for supplies or services that are lawfully operating (ii) undertaking personal exercise; or (iii) attending medical, or health care, appointments or for medical treatment (iv) seeking veterinary services for an animal (v) providing social support, or care, to another person (including to attend to another person's compassionate needs, to facilitate shared custody, guardianship or care arrangements for another person), as long as all other relevant directions under section 16 of the Act are complied with (vi) attending school or study, if unable to be performed at the person's primary residence (vii) attending work, or volunteering, if unable to be performed at the person's primary residence <i>(unless prohibited under Schedule 1 or 2 see below)</i>; or (viii) performing essential maintenance, or security inspections, of another premises owned, or occupied, by the person (ix) attending another location if the person has a reasonable excuse, in the opinion of the Director of Public Health or his or her delegate, to attend the other location. <p>A “gathering” does not include: persons at the premises for the purpose of delivering medical, health, emergency or urgent legal services, or end of life support, to a person at the premises; and</p> <p>Premises and activities that may not operate include: the provision of religious gatherings, religious ceremonies, religious instruction, non-denominational ceremonies and other similar services and ceremonies, unless the services are lawfully provided remotely by electronic means – with the exception of weddings and funerals as allowed.</p>

All community centres, neighbourhood houses, recreation centres, youth centres, community facilities, libraries and other similar premises, unless the premises are being used to provide essential voluntary, or public, services such as food banks or homelessness services.

All concert venues, theatres, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums and other similar premises, unless used by performers for the purpose of live streaming and the persons in, or on, those premises during the live stream - (a) do not exceed 5 persons; and (b) comply with the requirements of paragraphs (g) and (h) while in, or on, the premises.

See https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/397026/Direction_Mass_Gath.pdf.pdf

And https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/397735/Direction_Isolation.pdf