

Greater Brisbane 3-day lockdown

Information from Stephen Harrison, Executive Director Parishes and Other Mission Agencies Commission

As some of you may have heard through the media, the Queensland Government has announced a three-day lockdown for greater Brisbane starting on Friday 8 January 2021 at 6 pm and finishing on Monday 11 January 2021 at 6 pm.

The areas covered by the lockdown include the council areas of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Ipswich, Redlands and Logan. To find your council area (Local Government Area), enter your church or home address into the search bar [here](#).

The Government has stated that all residents living in lockdown areas will be required to stay at home. People will be permitted to leave home for key reasons including:

- to attend work if you can't work from home;
- to buy essentials like groceries and medicine;
- to look after the vulnerable; and
- to exercise within their neighbourhood.

Masks will need to be worn everywhere in those local government areas except if people are at home.

All places of worship within the lockdown areas must close for all activities during the lockdown period, including worship, hall hire and meetings.

Clergy and paid staff/volunteers are permitted to attend their church for the purposes of conducting livestreamed or online services, however the number of people involved should be kept to an absolute minimum. Masks will need to be worn by those present, however the person speaking or preaching may remove their mask for communication purposes but should distance themselves from others to the maximum extent possible. Singing is not permitted.

The only exception to the cessation of church activities is for funerals and weddings, which can be conducted with a maximum of 20 people.

There is a limit of two visitors in homes. Our advice during this lockdown period is that clergy should not be visiting church members other than in an emergency situation. Small group and Bible studies should move online or cease during the lockdown period.

Op Shops within the lockdown area should close for the lockdown period.

Churches outside the lockdown area should let attendees know that if they have visited the lockdown area from 2 January 2021, then they should not attend worship and isolate during the lockdown period.

Please note that this advice may be updated as further information emerges.

For further information and frequently asked questions, please refer to the following page on the Queensland Government website:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/greater-brisbane-lockdown>