

## Introduction

The Australian Government has announced recommendations that church services will shortly be able to re-start again. It remains the domain of State and Territory governments to legislate these recommendations and we encourage you to keep current with the latest state restrictions.

This resource is provided as a general plan. It is critical that you stay informed where you are in relation to the stage in the Pandemic Life-Cycle, and apply the principles as appropriate.

## About This Plan

This plan is designed to give practical guidance to churches to enable them to successfully comply with government standards for church based services. It should be noted that the Government requirement is a COVIDSafe Plan on every premises. This is because every premises has its own particular issues to deal with.

As we are living in a fast moving, constantly changing environment, we are encouraging your church leadership team to meet frequently to continue to monitor their arrangements in line with state government requirements.

The process of creating a COVIDSafe environment follows the standard Risk Assessment Process. In summary, this is:

1. Identify your risk – COVID-19 is a highly infectious disease with potentially fatal consequences to particular groups in our community.
2. Assess your risk – The likelihood of this risk is “Likely” and the impact may be “Major” so the rating is High.
3. Control your risk – Mitigate the risk by implementing risk reduction strategies
4. Review control measures – Local churches need to take ultimate responsibility for keeping a COVIDSafe premises

Risk Assessment Matrix		Consequence (C)				
		1=Slight	2=Minor	3=Moderate	4=Major	5=Severe
Hazard		No treatment	1st aid 1 or 2	1st aid >2	Hospital 1 or 2	Death or Hospital >2
Likelihood (L)	5 = Almost Certain is expected during activity	Low (L)	Medium (M)	High (H)	Very High (VH)	Very High (VH)
	4 = Very Likely expected more often than not	Low (L)	Medium (M)	High (H)	Very High (VH)	Very High (VH)
	3 = Likely will occur on occasion	Low (L)	Medium (M)	High (H)	High (H)	Very High (VH)
	2 = Unlikely May occur but more likely not to	Low (L)	Low (L)	Medium (M)	High (H)	High (H)
	1 = Very Unlikely Practically impossible to occur	Low (L)	Low (L)	Low (L)	Low (L)	Low (L)



## The Template Plan

ACS Financial has provided a template document called "The COVIDSafe Plan (template) – Church Premises". The template is designed to be adapted to local circumstances. Please feel free to amend as appropriate to your local circumstances.

Some important things that you will need to consider when working through the template:

1. Who in the leadership team needs to meet and agree to the plan for each premises?
2. Within our church, who will be the person allocated to be the COVIDSafe Warden?
3. Who will be responsible for keeping abreast of both the federal and the state government restrictions on meetings?
4. Is the incident management plan workable in our local environment?

The best way to adapt the template is to work through it during your next leadership meeting!

## Communication

As with all plans, communication is the key to effective implementation. It is highly recommended that you develop a communication plan to ensure that all people attending your premises are clear on your commitment to keeping them safe.

## Posters

There is a series of posters available to help you with signage at your church. High quality colour printing is preferable.



*Recommended for the front door and in the foyer/reception*



*Recommended for the front door, in general meeting areas and in the bathrooms*



*Recommended to be located in the foyer and at the registration desk.  
Different versions based on the state government restrictions.*



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Different versions based on the state government restrictions.*