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DHHS Guidelines

Sport, Cultural and Recreational Activities Restrictions

Religious services and places of worship

Are places of worship closed?

Under new arrangements to come into effect at 11.59pm on Tuesday 12 May, all places of worship, of all denominations can now open for re-arranged worship or small religious ceremonies of up to 10 people as well as the minimum number of people reasonably required for the service. This includes baptisms.

Multiple services or ceremonies can be held on the same day, but cleaning should occur between services or ceremonies. At least an hour should be allowed between services or ceremonies to reduce the risk of crowds at entrances and exits. The four square metre rule, which limits the number of people who can be in a building, applies.

Ceremonies and services can still be recorded or broadcast live from the place of worship for viewing online. You are allowed to have people on site to record and live stream services, however, you must ensure those people maintain physical distancing by keeping at least 1.5 metres between each other at all times.

Places of worship may be opened for the purposes of conducting weddings and funerals, but there are strict limits on the number of people who can attend.

For weddings, and under new arrangements to come into effect at 11.59pm on Tuesday 12 May, 10 people can attend in addition to the couple, and the celebrant.

For indoor funerals, no more than 20 mourners may attend in person as well as the people required for the funeral, such as the officiant or funeral company. Funerals held outdoors can be attended by a maximum of 30 mourners in attendance. If a funeral is held at a private house then only 5 people, in addition to people who live at the household, can attend.

Places of worship can continue to be opened for the purposes of hosting essential public support services such as food banks, help for the homeless or other essential activities, ensuring appropriate physical distancing is maintained by keeping at least 1.5 metres between everyone at all times.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sport-cultural-and-recreational-activities-restrictions-coronavirus-covid19#religious-services-and-places-of-worship>