

# Returning to Face-to-Face ministry with young people in COVID-19



**September, 2020**

Since these guidelines were first published in June 2020, communication has been circulated from the Diocesan Registry allowing for some previously prohibited activities (eg. Congregational singing) to resume under certain circumstances.

Generally, activities that are allowed in congregations should be allowed in our ministries to U18s. For specifics please speak to your Rector who will have up-to-date information from the Diocesan Registry.

**June, 2020**

As we plan to return to ministry in-person, we are faced with a variety of responses and expectations. For some people, in-person ministry is longed for and a relief, for others, there is much anxiety associated with the return, for others still, their vulnerable status means they will not meet in-person. Some of you will continue to meet online, others will have a mix of online and in-person, and others will resume face-to-face exclusively.

We recognise that **each context is different** and therefore your return to face-to-face ministry will be different. With that in mind, here are some ideas, principles and resources to assist you as you plan to return to face-to-face ministry with young people.

## General Principles

1. Communication is key

*Communicate well with your ministry team, your families, and your young people.*

2. Work with what you have to limit risk

*Observe the following guidance from [WHO for schools and education](#)*

3. Be flexible – the situation could change, prepare for that

*This may mean that while you make a plan for some activities that have shared items/touch points while there are zero active cases in the state, you may also have a plan for what to do if the situation changes – if new cases emerge, you might want to avoid shared items.*

4. Follow state government and diocesan guidelines

5. You will need a Covid-19 Safety plan for your ministry that fits with the organisational plan

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*You can refer to the organisational plan, with any necessary additions or variations.*

6. Your Covid-19 Safety plan will need to fit with your P2P

*Both of these plans are important for the safety of the young people in our ministries. This does not necessarily mean you will need to re-write your P2P, but that the two safety documents will work together and reference one-another.*

## **Some specifics**

1. Contact information

*Collect the following contact information from young people:*

- *First Name, Last Name, Contact phone number*

2. Singing/shouting in unison is to be avoided where possible

3. Food should be prepared and served hygienically.

*Food should be served individually by a volunteer, participants should not be serving themselves.*

- *Follow these guidelines: [www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/Pages/COVID-19---Advice-for-food-businesses-on-general-health-and-hygiene.aspx](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/Pages/COVID-19---Advice-for-food-businesses-on-general-health-and-hygiene.aspx)*

4. Shared items

*Ideally, these items should be hard/solid in order that they can be cleaned effectively. You may even want dishwasher-safe items so they can be sterilised in this way.*

5. Running around

*You may choose to hold these types of activities outside to reduce risk.*

6. Physical distancing

*Schools are using 1.5 m between adults, and between adults and children, where practicable. They are not enforcing distancing between children, but are asking them to wash hands / sanitise regularly, and to avoid touching each other and common things.*

*This approach may be suitable for our context also, noting that if we have active cases it may need to be changed to allow 1.5m between everyone at all times.*

As always, I'm available to be contacted to discuss these resources, or talk through any ideas you have.

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