

Dear proprietor and industry partners

Change to Public Health Directions to support businesses

Further to our correspondence of 2 October 2020 about the move to Step 3.2 of Canberra's Recovery Plan, we are writing to confirm the restriction changes which will take effect at **9am tomorrow, Friday, 9 October 2020**.

These changes reflect the ACT's continued positive response to COVID-19 and improvement in neighbouring jurisdictions when it comes to COVID-19.

The key changes which may be of interest to you are:

Changes to gathering sizes

- All venues can have 25 people (excluding staff) across the entire venue; or
- If venues want to have more than 25 people, venues can use the sum of:
 - one person per four square metres of usable space for each indoor space (up to a maximum of 200 people); and
 - one person per two square metres of usable space for each outdoor space (up to a maximum of 200 people).
- **This applies in all sectors and settings including gyms, personal services, places of worship, weddings, funerals, real estate and auction houses.**
- If people wish to hold a gathering with more than 200 people, they must seek an exemption in accordance with the [COVID Safe Event Protocol](#).

Cinemas

- Cinemas and movie theatres can sell up to 50% capacity of each theatre, up to 200 people.

Other changes

- Large indoor seated venues (for example, Canberra Theatre and Llewellyn Hall) can have ticketed events of no more than 50% capacity, up to 1,000 people, provided they have a COVID Safe Plan for each specific event.
- Enclosed outdoor venues with permanent tiered seating and grandstands can have no more than 50% capacity, up to 1,000 people provided they have a COVID Safe Plan for each event. These events must be ticketed and seated.
- GIO Stadium and Manuka Oval can have crowds of no more than 50% capacity with an appropriate COVID Safe Plan in place for each event. These events must be ticketed and seated.

Electronic recording of contact details

With the easing in restrictions, all venues are strongly encouraged to use an electronic method to capture patron details.

The free [Check In CBR app](#) is available to help venues to fulfill this requirement. The app is easy to use, reduces the administrative load on business and will ensure that the ACT is in the best position possible to respond to an outbreak if it occurs.

Ongoing compliance activity

Compliance with the current Public Health Direction is critical in supporting community safety. Access Canberra, the Health Protection Service and ACT Policing continue to undertake proactive checks at businesses to support compliance and community safety against the current Public Health Direction.

Non-compliance with the public health directions can result in regulatory action and serious penalties may apply.

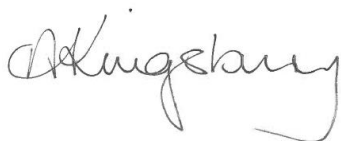
Further guidance or information:

- Please see attached to this letter PDFs of the new occupancy capacity signage that has been developed in line with the venue capacity limits as part of Step 3.2 restrictions. Please take the time to update the signage displayed in your premises.
- Further information is available and will be updated on the on the ACT Government's [COVID-19 website ahead of the changes coming into effect tomorrow morning](#).
- The Access Canberra Business Liaison Team is available to answer questions or provide advice. Reach the team on (02) 6205 0900.
- The updated Public Health Direction will be available prior to the change commencing on the [COVID-19 website](#).

As outlined, these changes do not take effect until 9am tomorrow, 9 October 2020. Until this time, the existing Public Health Direction remains in effect.

Your ongoing cooperation and proactive compliance with the Public Health Direction is greatly appreciated as we work to support our community's safety and Canberra's recovery from COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



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