

OFFICE OF Liquor and Gaming REGULATION



Direction from Queensland's Chief Health Officer in relation to COVID-19 and non-essential indoor gatherings

Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, has determined it reasonably necessary to make a direction about non-essential indoor gatherings in order to protect public health in relation to COVID-19.

These directions will apply to and impact licensed venues, including restaurants, pubs, clubs, and social venues across Queensland.

The full direction is available [here](#).

This is an unprecedented and evolving situation. Advice may change over time.

Direction

By law, the following directions must be adhered to from **19 March 2020** until midnight 19 May 2020, or at the end of the declared public health emergency.

- A person who owns, controls or operates premises in Queensland must not allow a non-essential indoor gathering of 100 persons or more to occur on the premises
- A person must not organise a non-essential indoor gathering of 100 persons or more on premises in Queensland
- A person must not attend a non-essential indoor gathering of 100 persons or more on premises in Queensland

Definition

A non-essential indoor gathering of 100 persons (including staff) or more occurs when 100 persons or more gather in a single undivided space at the same time.

The 100 person limit does not apply to gatherings in some limited circumstances, such as a hotel, motel or accommodation facility necessary for the normal operation of accommodation services. Refer to the direction for a full list of circumstances.

Guidance

For indoor gatherings of fewer than 100 people, additional risk mitigation measures should be applied and followed by those who own, control or operate premises, as well as persons organising and attending the gathering.

In a given occupied space, there must be a density of no more than one person per four square metres of floor space. For example, if the space is 200sqm then it can accommodate no more than 50 people including staff.

Availability of hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal.

For settings where there is ongoing movement and an increased number of interactions between individuals, an individual's attendance should be less than two hours duration.

For settings that are primarily static such as theatres, restaurants, cinemas, sporting events, an individual's attendance should be limited to four hours duration.

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Social venues, pubs, clubs and nightclubs must ensure the total number of people in a venue, including staff is fewer than 100 per uninterrupted space and a four square metres per individual rule must apply.

All licensees should ensure that:

- Spaces at each facility, surfaces and objects are regularly cleaned with disinfectant
- Provide hand washing guidance
- Promote regular and thorough hand washing by staff and participants
- Provide sanitising hand rub dispensers in prominent places around the premises (particularly entry or high use areas such as a registration desk, toilets and counters)
- Make sure dispensers are regularly refilled
- Promote the exclusion of ill persons.

Where patron or staff movements in walkways, doorways etc may cause some congestion those areas will need to be managed to ensure appropriate social distancing.

Penalties apply for failing to comply. However given industry's response to date we expect a high level of compliance with the Chief Health Officer's direction.

Thank you for your cooperation and the steps already taken by industry to protect your patrons, communities and workers.

Outdoor gatherings

Non-essential mass gatherings of fewer than 500 people can proceed provided there is no more than one person per four square metres of ground space.

Hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles must be available, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal.

Department of Health recommendations for unwell individuals to isolate at home and not attend must also be promoted.

Staying up to date

This is an unprecedented and evolving situation. Advice may change over time so it is important you stay up to date through reliable channels:

- Australian Government Department of Health
- Queensland Health's COVID-19 website

Call the National Coronavirus Help Line on 1800 020 080. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Regards,

Victoria Thomson

Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming