

Stage 3 Easing of COVID-19 restrictions



Wednesday 8 July 2020

Good afternoon

Today's stage 3 update brings you the latest advice on:

- dancing and dancefloors
- patron capacity in gaming areas
- who is responsible for ensuring physical distancing
- how to access a COVID Safe Industry Plan
- stage 3 in-venue signage.

Dancing restrictions strengthened

After restrictions eased on Friday 3 July, we saw disappointing images streamed across media of patrons dancing in licensed venues. This was also witnessed first-hand at some venues when our compliance officers visited. Such breaches are taken very seriously and are currently under investigation.

Queensland Health has contacted me directly to convey the Chief Health Officer's (CHO) concerns about the behaviour witnessed in nightclubs. Any repeat will risk the continued operation of nightclubs and nightclub activities under the Stage 3 eased restrictions.

Stage 3 is **not** a return to business as usual and authorities will continue to monitor activities and adjust restrictions as appropriate.

Our compliance officers will continue inspecting venues and won't hesitate to take enforcement action (a **\$6,670 fine**) against those operating in breach of these requirements.

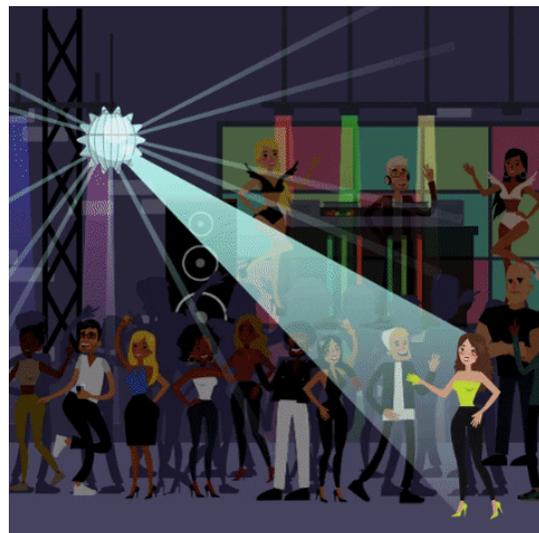
We've seen across the world and interstate how easily Coronavirus (COVID-19) spreads, especially in close social settings. Operating in a way that encourages mingling and close contact between patrons not only puts your venue at risk of a hefty fine, but possible closure if health authorities are required to manage a potential outbreak that occurred at your business.

The CHO requested amendment of the [COVID Safe Industry Plan for Hotels, Clubs, Nightclubs and Adult Entertainment](#) to state that **dancing is not permitted** under this Industry COVID Safe Plan. The updated plan is now [online](#).

For licensed venues operating under this plan, **dancing is not permitted anywhere within the venue**. The only exception is where dancing is expressly permitted under the Restrictions on Business, Activities and Undertakings Direction (No.3), or an approved Industry COVID Safe Plan, for example:

- to facilitate a structured exercise class in accordance with the Industry COVID Safe Plan for Fitness Facilities
- for an adult entertainment performance, with physical distancing between the performer and the patron.

For licensed venues operating under another plan or checklist, such as restaurants, the requirements detailed in our [earlier Vision 6 email](#) remain, with dancefloors not able to be used for dancing.



These requirements are for the safety of your staff, patrons and Queensland communities.

Here's some tips on how to close your dancefloor and manage other areas of your venue where dancing may occur:

- increase security presence in the area
- place furniture (tables and chairs) in the area for patron use
- use obvious barriers and signage so patrons know the area is off-limits for dancing
- ensure DJs are not encouraging patrons to dance, but instead assist in reinforcing the restrictions.

Patron capacity in gaming areas

The COVID Safe Checklist for gaming (page 31 of [COVID SAFE Industry plan for Hotels, Clubs, Nightclubs and Adult Entertainment](#)) states that occupant density (patron capacity) of no more than 1 person per 4m² must be maintained at all times in gaming areas.

Even if your gaming room is less than 200m², the 1 person per 4m² rule applies.

The CHO's Direction states that people should observe physical distancing i.e. remaining at least 1.5 metres away from other persons to the extent possible (unless they are from the same group).

Some ideas to manage your venue and assist patrons in observing physical distancing are:

- moving or removing chairs
- signage on alternate machines
- using floor markers, and
- only allowing people from the same group to sit side-by-side at gaming machines.

Physical distancing - who is responsible?

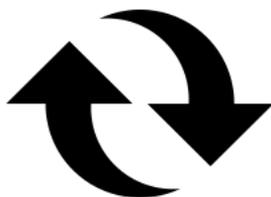
Ensuring physical distancing occurs in licensed venues is a shared responsibility of patrons and the licensee and their staff.

Patrons should observe physical distancing where possible when attending a venue by remaining 1.5 metres from others, unless they are in the same group.

Licensees should have suitable measures in place to assist individuals in physical distancing, especially when they are queuing to enter a venue, using facilities (i.e. bathrooms) or ordering food and drinks. It is also important to manage your business so that patrons are spread across the venue to allow for physical distancing to occur.

Trouble accessing the latest version of your industry plan?

If you're finding when opening the COVID Industry Plans it is still showing a previous version, you may need to refresh your browser on your desktop computer or device. This means the next time you access the webpage, everything will be downloaded new.



Regards,

Victoria Thomson

Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

Stage 3 in-venue signage now available

Stage 3 in-venue signage is now available for licensees to download and display. As patron capacity now varies between venues, there is now a 'free text field' for licensees to update.

