

Hello,

This Wednesday, a number of things converged that highlighted the importance of the 4sqm and 1.5 mtr distancing rules. This led us to restrict activities to certain locations on the property and to pause some of the plans I foreshadowed in my last *Update*, about opening the *Community Room* for various new activities.

About a half hour before my meeting with the Elders, 3 cases of CoronaVirus were confirmed in the ACT. Others have followed and have all been traced back to Melbourne hotspots.

While we were meeting, the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, released a statement which stated:

The unfolding situation in Victoria is a significant concern, and that's why the ACT is taking a cautious approach with further easing of restrictions. The ACT will not be implementing a 1 person per 2 square metres rule at this time given the heightened COVID-19 risk.

It's perhaps useful to look at the spirit behind the restrictions/rules and see them as guidelines for how we can take care of each other and stop the spread of the virus. **It defines how, in the midst of the pandemic, we can love each other and our neighbours.**

In a statement on Friday, following the National Cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister, Mr Morrison, said it was important that all Australians kept up with social-distancing rules:

"This is a lesson outside of the Victorian experience.

"It is what we're seeing in organised venues, those sorts of activities, in the main, although there are some examples to the contrary, that's the rules are seeking to be followed.

"When we're at home and there are people around, we still have to practise the social distancing.

"It is still not OK for hugs and handshakes. Stop! It's important to maintain the discipline of the social distancing behind closed doors, not just out in the public space.

"It is important to ensure social distancing is the norm, it is not the exception.

"It is the norm and it will be the norm for a very long time, until at least we have a vaccine that can be mass produced and made available across the population

WHAT IS RE-OPENING

Jack's Gym – as full-contact training was able to commence from 19 June, Jack prepared the gym and has put hygiene and other measures in place and classes commenced on Monday 6 July.

The Op Shop will be open on Wednesday and Thursday each week from 15 July 2020

A great deal of work has gone into preparing the shop. Furniture and fixtures have been re-arranged. Distancing tape leads customers around the shop and food and drink are no longer served or shared. Stock has been sorted, displayed or stored.

A special landmark in the history of the Op Shop was passed on 17 June when 10 years of operations was celebrated, in a virtual way.

It's the Op Shop with many differences:

- SueMassen becomes the guardian of the health of the volunteers and customers while they work, browse and buy at the *Op Shop*. She ensures that they each have their own health-safety bubble of 4sqm/1.5mtr, in a space where the frequently touched surfaces have been cleaned and disinfected.
- She screens each customer, advises them that the shop no longer takes cash or serves food or drink and invites them to write their details in the Visitor's Book (for contact tracing purposes). She makes sure that there are no more than the allowed number of people in the shop at any one time and that they remain socially distanced. After closing time she supervises the cleaning of the shop ready for the next day's trade. She ensures the hygiene of toilets for staff.
- Volunteer staff assist customers with making choices and, on Tuesdays, some engage in sorting new donations, cleaning and restocking the shop for Wednesday trading.
- Customers will receive friendly (though distanced) service but may have to spend less time in the shop so that there are no more than 10 people (including the staff) in the shop at one time

The Connect for Craft group will meet on Friday 24 July – with differences:

- The venue will be the *Community Room* and not the *Seminar Room* where the group previously met
- Crafters will be seated at separate tables/locations in the room which has been taped at 1.5 mtr distances
- Crafters will need to book to come to the group – the leader will be in contact with the regular attendees to organise this
- Crafters will need to bring their own projects with them – so that there is no sharing of equipment.
- Crafters will need to bring their own drinks in thermal containers – no food or drink will be provided or shared
- Entrance will be direct from the ground level car park – the lift and foyer will not be open

The CAP Money Course will run on 25 July and 8 August – with differences

- The venue will be the *Community Room* and not the *Kids' Space* where the group previously met
- Delegates will be seated at separate tables/locations in the room which has been taped at 1.5 mtr distances
- Delegates will need to book through the *CAP Australia* website or by email to capmoney@tbcchurch.com.au
- Delegates workbooks and other equipment will be individually packaged.
- Delegates will need to bring their own water in containers – drinks may be purchased from the local coffee shop
- Entrance will be direct from the ground level car park – the lift and foyer will not be open

The Tuesday study and discussion group with Paul Massen commences this Tuesday – with differences:

- The venue will be the *Community Room* and not the *Seminar Room* where the group previously met
- Participants will be seated at separate tables/locations in the room which has been taped at 1.5 mtr distances
- Participants will need to notify Paul that they intend to come so that he can assure that the number allowed is not exceeded
- Participants will need to bring their own bibles and note-taking or other supplies
- Participants will need to bring their own drinks – no food or drink will be provided or shared
- Entrance will be direct from the ground level car park - the lift and foyer will not be open

Team meetings and external organisations

Teams that usually use the *Board Room* may meet in the *Community Room*, by arrangement that includes notification of who will be attending, and who is responsible for COVIDSafe practices, cleaning and hygiene.

IT'S ABOUT MAKING THE BUILDING A SAFE PLACE

The current focus of the Transition Team is to develop plans to safely fit the various ministries and others that use the *Garratt St Centre* into the spaces, and then to work out how, when and by whom the necessary work will be done.

Our task is to **provide each person who attends any event with their own safety bubble of 4 sqm with 1.5mtr distancing** in premises that have recently been cleaned to COVIDSafe standards and where they are provided with hand sanitiser on entrance and have the opportunity to sign a Visitors' Book for tracing purposes. A facility that is provided with safe public spaces (accesses, entries and exits) and toilets that have sufficient handwashing supplies.

All of the spaces are being prepared on a staged basis. This approach makes best use of the volunteers doing the work and also provides us with a way to test the waters, as far as our processes and controlling infection are concerned.

We are taking an abundantly cautious approach.

Open spaces – Jack's gym, the Op Shop, the Community Room

Each of these spaces has one entrance which is directly from the ground level car park or via the gate and walkway from the Wanniasa Shopping Centre public car park.

There is only one door handle that has to be constantly cleaned.

Each space is contained – it does not provide access to any other space. It is not a thoroughfare.

The use of the *Community Room* by a number of small groups, minimises the cleaning burden. Parts of the room may be cordoned off for safety reasons.

Limited access space – the Auditorium on Level 1

This space is only to be used by the Worship and A/V team who work with me to record the Sunday service and for watering plants on Level 1.

The preferred access to the *Auditorium* is to use the stairs near the toilets and the entrance directly from the balcony so there is only one door handle to be constantly cleaned and disinfected.

The foyers and lifts to be used only by persons bringing heavy or cumbersome loads of equipment into the building. When these are used more door handles, lift buttons etc will need to be disinfected.

The *Administration* space and my office are only to be used by staff.

The rows of fabric chairs in the *Auditorium* will be cordoned off and single chairs, that can be cleaned and disinfected effectively, will be used while the 4sqm 1.5mtr rule applies.

Closed spaces – the foyers, Seminar Room, Board Room and Staircases and Level 1

The foyers are closed as they include multiple doors and access to other rooms where a person might contaminate a surface and that, therefore, is not disinfected before another person touches the same surface.

The staircases will be cordoned off so that people visiting the ground level do not use the handrails which could be contaminated, as these will not be cleaned and disinfected until we open up *Level 1*.

ADMISSION BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT – A CHANGE FOR KEYHOLDERS

During the Transition Team meeting on Wednesday, it became apparent that it is possible for any space in the building to be contaminated unless we know who is entering, when they are coming, where they enter, what they touch and whether they have cleaned and disinfected before leaving.

For this reason, **all keyholders** are asked to email Daphne at events@tbcchurch.com.au or message 0422 261 672 to make suitable arrangements to be on the premises. Examples are someone who wants to collect resources for a storage space, someone or a small working party who want to tend the gardens. This does not apply to people who use the building at regular pre-arranged times – Jack's Gym, the Op Shop, staff and Worship and A/V teams. It does apply if a keyholder from one of these wishes to come to the building for a different purpose or at a different time.

The Transition team will be organising some small working parties to help with preparation work around the building.

EXAMPLE FROM ANOTHER CHURCH

Between the Transition Team and Elders meetings on Wednesday, I caught up with the live update session hosted by the *Association of Baptist Churches in NSW & ACT*.

At the at 26:22 min point in the video of the live session ,the Revd Howard Bennett, Executive Pastor of *Epping Baptist Church* outlines the measures they have put in place that are very similar to what we are doing at the *Garratt St Centre*. I encourage you all to view this video at <https://vimeo.com/434919643>. Howard's presentation lasts about 5 minutes.

In addition, the video session brings together a number of useful considerations such as:

- The Public Health Emergency Directions are general and cannot speak to every detail.
 - We are responsible to interpret the directions for our specifics and we should interpret them within the spirit of the directions rather than to look for loopholes in the directions
 - Andrew Palmer (State Director of Global Interaction and on the Leadership Team of the Baptist Association in NSW / ACT) suggested that, in interpreting the directions, it is **best to bless the most vulnerable**
- The key to the number of persons permitted on the premises is the 4 sqm rule.
- The 1.5 mtr distancing rule must be taken into consideration when calculating capacity and this may further reduce the capacity of the space

PRACTISING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE

We understand that, for some, gathering together for Sunday service provides a space where you set aside time to intentionally seek God's presence. We want to provide that opportunity as soon as preparations can be finished, and it is safe to do so. The developments in Victoria, and the carrying of the virus from hotspots in Melbourne to the ACT and other states and territories, serve to jolt us out of any complacency and shown us how important it is for us to embed COVID Safe behaviours into our everyday lives, in public and in our homes.

The Prime Minister's statement above says that distancing *will be the norm for a very long time, until at least we have a vaccine that can be mass produced and made available across the population*. We must prepare for reopening all of the building and all existing and yet-to-be-established ministries under these restrictions, at the same time that we pray that the time might be shortened.

We also need to keep practising God's presence with our spiritual exercises: participating in the recorded services (perhaps in the company of others in our homes) at <https://www.tbcchurch.com.au/church-online>, setting aside regular times for study via the many teaching programs available, for bible study and reflection, for conversations

with God as we pray our way through the day, and for catch ups with our Christian friends for discussion, socialisation and mutual support.

Some of you may have bookshelves crammed with old favourites or half-read books and others access to on-line resources that will refresh your souls in this stressful time.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO YOUR PRAYER REGIME

Give thanks for the food, heating and comfort in our homes during the lock down times and ask for God's intervention to restore and to sustain and comfort those who have been traumatized by the lock down of public housing towers in Melbourne. Give thanks for the agencies that have stepped up to help

Give thanks for the co-operation between the states and territories who have supplied personnel to help with the tasks of tracing, testing and other essential duties which, otherwise, would have overwhelmed Victoria and promoted the spread of the virus throughout the nation

Pray for those who are unable to travel to places where they might be reunited with loved ones or for holidays that would provide work for those in the tourism and associated industries

Give thanks for our medical services and their associated administrative services that have developed the capacity to continue elective surgeries to relieve pain and arrest disease and for the swift recovery and restoration of the immune systems of those who undergo surgeries

Give thanks that we are the lucky country in terms of numbers of cases and deaths and pray for those who are less lucky and in distress because of the economic crisis caused by dealing with the pandemic – those who have lost jobs, are working less, have lost businesses or have seen their pension funds devalued

Pray for those we know and do not know in other parts of the world including the countries where our missions partners serve in Africa where numbers continue to soar

Remember, in the silent place with God that: Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not death, life, angels, or ruling spirits. I am sure that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us—nothing in the whole created world—will ever be able to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord. [Rom 8:39 ERV]

FINANCE

Give thanks for the abundance of God's goodness towards us that has caused us to give and receive offerings as follows:

Analysis of Giving from 1 October 2019 to 8 July 2020							
Date	Total Direct Deposits only	BFS direct transfer	Westpac direct transfer	iGive	iGive Credit Card	Morning Offerings	Total giving each month
31/10/2019	\$11,484.00	\$2,734.00	\$1,900.00	\$3,550.00	\$3,300.00	\$8,291.55	\$19,775.55
30/11/2019	\$16,698.00	\$2,968.00	\$3,030.00	\$9,120.00	\$1,580.00	\$8,716.00	\$25,414.00
31/12/2019	\$9,678.00	\$2,273.00	\$1,985.00	\$3,170.00	\$2,250.00	\$10,706.65	\$20,384.65
31/01/2020	\$8,876.00	\$2,321.00	\$1,825.00	\$3,080.00	\$1,650.00	\$8,004.00	\$16,880.00
29/02/2020	\$11,460.00	\$2,860.00	\$1,900.00	\$3,150.00	\$3,550.00	\$7,629.10	\$19,089.10
31/03/2020	\$11,113.00	\$4,078.00	\$2,695.00	\$3,090.00	\$1,250.00	\$7,462.40	\$18,575.40
30/04/2020	\$17,142.00	\$8,412.00	\$2,360.00	\$3,820.00	\$2,550.00	\$0.00	\$17,142.00
Cash Boost	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00				\$10,000.00
31/05/2020	\$21,362.00	\$10,862.00	\$2,910.00	\$4,590.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$21,362.00
Jobkeeper	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00					\$6,000.00

30/06/2020	\$20,899.00	\$9,764.00	\$2,105.00	\$4,400.00	\$3,880.00	\$750.00	\$21,649.00
8/07/2020	\$3,573.00	\$2,428.00	\$265.00	\$580.00	\$300.00		\$1,145.00
Total	\$144,227.00	\$52,272.00	\$30,975.00	\$37,970.00	\$23,010.00	\$51,559.70	\$197,416.70

BSB 704 922

Account: 100 014 987; and

Account Name: Tuggeranong Baptist Church

KEEP IN CONTACT

Please contact me, one of the Leadership or Connect teams or a trusted Christian to share any feelings of anxiety or other concerns you may have

Blessings,

Ian Reid (Revd)

Lead Pastor, Tuggeranong Baptist Church

for the Leadership Team

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