

## RESTAURANT & CATERING AUSTRALIA UPDATED INDOOR GATHERING BAN FACT SHEET UPDATED 20 MARCH 2020

### *Background:*

In addition to the Federal Government's recent announcement of bans on outdoor gatherings of more than 500 people, the National Cabinet has today announced a ban on indoor gatherings of more than 100 people. Information relating to both of these bans is below.

On Friday 20 March, a further requirement was introduced stating that **"In a given occupied space, there must be no more than one person per four square metres of ground space."**

This new rule comes into effect **immediately**.

### *Key Facts:*

- 1. Restaurants, Cafes and Caterers are being caught by the indoor and outdoor gathering restriction.*
- 2. These restrictions operate concurrently – so the ban on outdoor gatherings operates as well as the ban on indoor gatherings where your business has both outdoor and indoor seating.*
- 3. While shopping centres and certain retail stores are exempt, restaurants or cafes in shopping centres remain caught by this restriction.*
- 4. These measures are enforceable by state and territory governments under Public Safety Laws and should be complied with in partnership with R&CA Best Practice Guide to Managing COVID-19 in your Business.*
- 5. The patron limit includes staff for both outdoor and indoor restrictions.*
- 6. In a given occupied space, there must be a density of no more than one person per four square metres of floor space this includes staff and kitchen area if it is connected to the main dining room.*
- 7. For settings that are primarily static such as theatres, restaurants, cinemas, sporting events or certain catered functions an individual's attendance should be limited to four hours duration.*

### **Friday 20 March 2020 New Update**

#### **INDOOR GATHERINGS**

Risk mitigation should be applied to gatherings of fewer than 100 people including the following:

- In a given occupied space, there must be a density of no more than one person per four square metres of floor space.
- Availability of hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal.

- Promotion of the Department of Health recommendations for unwell individuals to isolate at home and not attend.
- 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.

Examples:

- Seated restaurants may need to undertake a significant capacity reduction in order to meet the above density requirements.
- Weddings and other catered functions will need larger spaces, staggered attendance or a reduced number of attendees to meet the above density requirements.

## **OUTDOOR GATHERINGS**

**Outdoor events of fewer than 500 attendees may proceed.** There are general measures that all events should follow.

- In a given occupied space, there must be no more than one person per four square metres of ground space.
- Availability of hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal.
- Promotion of the Department of Health recommendations for unwell individuals to isolate at home and not attend.

Food markets are exempt from the 500 person limit, however must undertake additional measures, such as control of patronage level numbers or stall density reduction to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

## **Safe food and utensil handling statement for catering**

The primary transmission route for COVID-19 is person-to-person; it may therefore be transmitted via utensils or plates that have been handled by someone who has COVID-19.

- For catering, advise staff if they feel unwell to stay at home, and deny entry to staff who are unwell.
- All food, including pre-packaged foods such as boxed lunches, should be prepared by staff trained in safe food handling practices.
  - Ensure hand washing facilities are accessible for staff and supplied with adequate soap and paper towels.

## **INDOOR GATHERINGS**

As part of our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Australia, the National Cabinet has accepted further restrictions on gatherings.

The National Cabinet has accepted the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice that non-essential indoor gatherings of greater than 100 people (including staff) will no longer be permitted from Wednesday 18 March 2020.

- An indoor gathering refers to a gathering within a single enclosed area (i.e. an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are permanent, temporary, open or closed).
- This does not apply to essential activities such as public transportation facilities, medical and health care facilities, pharmacies, emergency service facilities, correctional facilities, youth justice centres or other places of custody, courts or tribunals, Parliaments, food markets, supermarkets and grocery stores, shopping centres, office buildings, factories, construction sites, and mining sites, where it is necessary for their normal operation (although other social distancing and hygiene practices may be required in these settings).

The states and territories will consider practical guidance and rules for non-essential indoor gatherings of fewer than 100 people (including staff) such as cinemas, theatres, restaurants/cafes, pubs, clubs, weddings and funerals. This will be considered at the next National Cabinet meeting on Friday 20 March 2020. In the meantime, these venues should continue to apply social distancing and hygiene practices.

- This includes being able to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between patrons.
- Hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles need to be available, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal.

This may require significant changes to the operation of some venues, such as reducing the maximum capacity or increasing the space available.

Settings like gyms, indoor fitness centres and swimming pools are not required to close at this time providing they meet these requirements for social distancing and hand hygiene. Such venues should take actions to ensure regular high standards of environmental cleaning take place.

The new restrictions for indoor venues come into effect ASAP. The new restrictions for indoor venues come into effect at 5pm today and will mean that any gathering at venues like restaurants, pubs, or cinemas that have more than 100 people can't occur today. This will mean that any gathering at venues like restaurants, pubs, or cinemas that have more than 100 people can't occur.

## **OUTDOOR GATHERINGS**

Outdoor events of fewer than 500 attendees may proceed. There are general measures that all events should follow, including:

- In a given occupied space, there must be no more than one person per four square metres of ground space.
- Availability of hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal.

Food markets are exempt from the 500 person limit, however must undertake additional measures, such as control of patronage numbers or stall density reduction to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

There may be other gatherings that are considered essential and it is at the discretion of the individual state and territory Chief Medical Officers or equivalent to assess each on their merits and determine whether they can continue if mitigated by social distancing measures.