



Victoria

Church and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

(12 March 2020)

Are churches required to close if any member or staff are diagnosed with COVID-19?

When a church initially has a member or a staff who has been in attendance at the church that tests positive, the entire church will close for 24 hours while [the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](#) (DHHS) investigates and sets forth a plan for any further precautionary measures that the church must take to contain exposure, which may result in additional closure. During this time, the entire church building shall be disinfected in accordance with [guidelines from the Department of Health](#). Members and staff may also be placed in voluntary self-quarantine for 14 days. Please also refer to the following links for more information:

[Worksafe Victoria](#) for more information and guidelines for employers

[Information](#) (including translated resources) for **close contacts** of a confirmed case

[Information](#) (including translated resources) for **casual contacts** of a confirmed case

What if someone comes to church and then begins to show flu-like symptoms?

Staff and members who appear to have an flu-like illness when they come to church—or who become ill during the day— should be isolated from other people if possible, or kept a minimum of 1m away from others until they can be sent home. If you suspect that the person may have COVID-19 (e.g. travel history or have contact with an infected person), **please call the dedicated hotline on 1800 675 398**. Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

When church administrators or leaders learn of a member or a staff who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, who should they contact?

Church administrators and leaders should contact DHHS immediately and regularly communicate and obtain up-to-date guidance about confirmed cases. Call the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398 or visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus for more information. You should also inform the Victorian Conference at samuelshehata@adventist.org.au

What can churches do to control the spread of COVID-19 in their community?

Churches can help reduce the spread of any virus, whether it is the flu virus or COVID-19, by promoting good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Visit <https://vic.adventist.org.au/health-safety-alert-coronavirus-information/> for updated Victorian Conference advice.