

COVID-19 Incident Plan for Parishes

This plan has been designed to deal with a situation where a person testing positive for COVID-19 has visited one of our churches.

What do we do in the case of a positive test?

The primary responsibility for managing what happens in a parish lies with the Rector and Wardens.

In the case of a positive test, the assumption is that the parish will be contacted by NSW Health, as a result of their contact tracing.

When this happens the primary contact person identified on the parish's COVIDsafe registration **should immediately contact their Regional Bishop** and send him a copy of their COVIDsafe plan. If the Regional Bishop isn't available, they should contact Bishop Koo.

In the event of a confirmed case in a parish

The Rector and Wardens are responsible for –

1. Communicating to the parish, including the parents/guardians of parishioners under the age of 18 who don't attend church.
2. Co-operating with NSW Health in all aspects of cleaning and compliance, including deep cleaning and providing relevant contact details.
3. Providing pastoral care, especially of those who test positive and all those required to self-isolate due to contact with a COVID-19 positive person.
4. Communicating with all other groups who use the premises.

The Regional Bishop is responsible for –

1. Providing pastoral support for the Rector and Wardens.
2. Discerning whether the parish needs additional operational or financial support via the COVID-19 Taskforce.
3. Informing the Anglican Church Property Trust.
4. Keeping the Archbishop up to date.

The Archbishop is responsible for –

1. Informing all Rectors and Wardens.
2. Liaising with the NSW Minister for Health.

The responsibilities of the COVID-19 Taskforce falls into two categories

a. Communications

The CEO of Anglican Media Sydney, Mr Russell Powell, will oversee all diocesan communication.

This will involve immediate statements to media, on the Sydney Anglicans website and via social media platforms.

Responsibilities will also include ongoing updates to both the media and key stakeholders.

Russell will determine who is to be our chief spokesperson/persons during this time and provide media advice to the Archbishop and the parish.

Parishes are urged to contact Russell via rpowell@anglicanmedia.com.au before making any statements or dealing with the media.

b. Support

Support will be overseen by SDS in the following ways:

1. Providing information on preferred deep-cleaning contractors.
2. Obtaining a copy of the parish's COVIDsafe plan for review by the COVID-19 Taskforce and for our records.
3. Providing any insurance or legal advice.

Order of communication

Once confirmation has been received by NSW Health, the Rector is to initiate the flow of notification as follows:

Who needs to know

1. Regional bishop
2. Archbishop
3. COVID-19 Task Force
4. ACPT
5. Parishioners at risk of contact
6. Other parishioners
7. Other groups using the premises
8. All Rectors and Wardens
9. Media
10. Website
11. Social media

Who will tell them

- Rector
- Regional Bishop
- Regional Bishop
- Regional Bishop
- Rector
- Rector
- Rector
- Archbishop
- Russell Powell
- Russell Powell
- Russell Powell

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What to do if someone in your church tests positive

The primary responsibility for managing a response to a positive test case in the parish is with the Rectors and Wardens. The parish will be contacted by NSW Health, as a result of contact tracing. At that point the primary contact person on the parish's COVIDsafe registration should immediately inform the Rector (if they are not the Rector), and the Regional Bishop.

