

Questions about returning to church at St James

Churches are now allowed to re-open for all who want to come, regardless of vaccination status. (This is different from other places such as restaurants which are only open to those who are fully-vaccinated.) St James will be therefore be recommencing services in our building from Sunday October 24 at our normal times of 9am, 10.30am and 7pm. The morning services will include youth and children's programs.

1. What will church be like?

Church will be similar to when we came out of lockdown last year. The government requires us to do the following:

- Not come to church if you have any cold or flu symptoms.
- Everyone must check in using the NSW Government QR code.
- Masks must be worn by everyone over the age of 12 when inside.
- Limit numbers to 1 person per 4m². For our larger services this will mean seating people in both the church and the hall.
- Physical distancing. In the church we will only sit in every second pew, and in the hall chairs will be spaced.
- No congregational singing (our musos are allowed to sing to us if they are fully-vaccinated).

2. Will there be unvaccinated people at church?

Children under 12 years old are unable to be vaccinated, so there will be unvaccinated people at church on Sunday. We are not required to check the vaccination status of adults, so we cannot say.

3. What other safety measures is St James taking?

The wardens have approved a COVID-19 safety plan as required by the government. All St James staff and youth and children's ministry volunteers are fully-vaccinated.

Good ventilation reduces risk. For this reason:

- We will keep the church, the hall, and youth and children's ministry spaces as well-ventilated as possible.
- As soon as services are over we will move outside.

- Our creche and kids ministry spaces will be using HEPA air purifiers.

4. What will happen after church?

- For the time being we will not recommence morning tea or supper.
- Masks are not required outside.
- We should physically distance when outside, and when interacting with others we should be respectful of their preferences and comfort.

5. What about people who don't want to come back to church yet?

The livestream will continue for the time being.

6. What about Youth & Children's Ministry?

- Youth and children's programs can recommence with a limit of 1 person per 4m² indoors and 1 person per 2m² outdoors. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated young people can attend. Our programs will practice physical distancing where possible. All St James staff and youth and children's ministry volunteers are fully-vaccinated.
- We will contact St James parents about the dates on which specific programs restart.
- Children and youth over 12 as well as leaders are required to wear masks indoors.
- Masks are recommended but not mandatory for children 11 and under, and parents should decide for their own children.

7. How long will it be like this?

The rules are due to change again on December 1. Indoor capacity limits will be reduced, and we expect more details closer to that date.

8. What if I have questions which haven't been covered?

The link to church-specific COVID-19 information on the Sydney Anglicans website is here: <https://sydneyanglicans.net/covid19>

You can email the church office with a question: office@stjamescroydon.org.au, or contact the staff member responsible for the relevant ministry area.