

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As indicated in my email last week, I am now able to send the updated Industry Plan for Places of Worship to you as well as some recent guidelines for those volunteers and employees who are considered vulnerable.

1. **Updated Industry Plan**: Now that we have moved to Stage 3, it is an expectation of the Queensland Government, and therefore the Archdiocese, that all churches will adhere to the Industry Plan for Places of Worship.
  - Please find the updated Industry Plan and Fact Sheet [here](#).
  - Additionally, the Archdiocesan COVID-Safe Plan can be found [here](#) which outlines additional protocols specific to Catholic worship and ministry. This has been updated for ease of reference.
2. **Vulnerable Volunteers/Employees**: The Federal Health Guidelines now advise that, due to low numbers of COVID-19 cases in most communities, those people who were previously identified as being at higher risk of the disease can now return to work and other settings provided they can meet social distancing requirements.
  - Queensland Health guidelines indicate the following as vulnerable groups.
    - Queenslanders over 70 years of age
    - Queenslanders over 65 years of age with underlying health issues
    - First Nations Queenslanders over the age of 50 with one or more chronic disease.
  - Parishes should provide clear advice informing individuals in vulnerable groups of their heightened vulnerability. Refer here to the advice:  
<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/coronavirus-prevention>
  - Each parish will need to review specific tasks and roles to ensure the social distancing requirements can be met to support the return of this higher risk group. For example, it is preferred that the use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at liturgies are not from a vulnerable group as it is difficult to maintain a 1.5 metre distance.

If you have any questions regarding these updates or require any assistance please contact the Work Health and Safety team at [whs@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:whs@bne.catholic.net.au).

Kind regards



**Bishop Ken Howell**

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