



LUCY WICKS MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR ROBERTSON



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 19 March 2020

UPDATE ON COVID-19 PUBLIC GATHERING MEASURES

Prime Minister, Scott Morrison has made a number of changes that will affect communities across Australia, including here on the Central Coast. Several of these measures being enacted will ensure the safety of individuals and assist in slowing the spread of Coronavirus within our communities.

This announcement followed advice from Australia's leading medical experts and are designed to protect those in the community from the virus.

Federal Member for Robertson, Lucy Wicks said "A common concern of many within my community is around schools. Schools are exempt from the new restrictions, with all schools remaining open. If your child is unwell a common sense approach is encouraged to keep your children at home."

"Supermarkets will remain open and continue to receive and supply stock to those throughout the community, it is important that people here on the Central Coast remain calm when doing their grocery shop and to not bulk purchase essential items."

"In good times and bad times, we have seen our community gather together, now is the time for us to be mindful that the advice from medical experts and the Government is necessary to ensure we protect ourselves, our loved ones and the wider community from the spread of Coronavirus." Ms Wicks said.

Whilst a new restriction is now in place for non-essential gatherings of over 100 people indoors and further enforcing the restrictions of 500 plus people outdoors, It is important to note that this announcement does not apply to essential activities such as public transport, medical and health care facilities, schools, supermarkets and grocery stores.

"It is important, we encourage each other to stay calm and continue going about our daily lives, as well as practicing social distancing and appropriate hygiene measures."

"It is vital for those within the community to stay at home if you are feeling unwell. Seek medical care by contacting your GP or calling Healthdirect on 1800 022 222."

Our focus is on the health and wellbeing of Australians and their livelihoods. We're ensuring that our economy is resilient and that we are well positioned to emerge strong from this global health crisis.

MEDIA:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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.

- 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).

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.

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 level numbers or stall density reduction to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission.