

CANBERRA REGIONAL MEETING

COVID-19 UPDATE - USE OF THE MEETING HOUSE

Meeting for Worship for Business on 3 May agreed that House and Grounds Committee, Ministry Committee, Bookings Officer, and the Co-Clerks met to discern the time for the re-opening of the Meeting House. This meeting occurred on 13 May and a longer report will be in the May Newsletter.

Right now there are still restrictions in place and we understand that gradually these will lessen depending on Covid-19 developments and responses in ACT. Currently in ACT 10 people are able to be at a business, home, or place of worship with physical distancing.

In order to support the health of the community in general and of Friends, we agree on a gradual and cautious approach to the re-opening of the Meeting House. Arrangements will be reviewed towards the end of May.

For now:

1. The Meeting House will not be open for Meeting for Worship.
2. CRM Committees may decide whether they wish to use the Meeting House for their meetings and undertake the required physical distancing (1.5 metres) and sanitising measures.*
3. Anyone entering the Meeting House should use hand sanitiser (which is available at the Meeting House) as well as all suggested sanitising measures as well as engaging all suggested COVID-safe strategies.
4. Anyone using the Meeting House for e.g. a committee meeting, should sanitise any surfaces used, including door handles and light switches, with the disinfectant wipes provided and disposing of them at home.
5. We do not think it is yet the appropriate time to offer the Meeting House for rentals.
6. We do not think it is yet appropriate to use the Meeting House kitchen due to the extra cleaning required to keep it safe.
7. We suggest that if Friends would find it helpful to have more face-to-face worship opportunities, they could consider meeting in groups of 5 in homes, which may allow for physical distancing. If needed, Ministry Committee may be able to provide guidance on worship planning.

Please contact Lorraine Thomson or David Purnell Co-Clerks for further information (RMcanberraclerks@quakersaustralia.info).

**CRM Committees may like to know that the Bridget Hodgkin Room can hold 7 people with required physical distancing and the Backhouse Room 6 people.*