

*A quick checklist to work through caring for church in isolation*

## Key principles:

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*

## We long to see disciples who are:

- Welcoming and connecting people warmly, personally and meaningfully into God's family, so that the body of Christ builds itself up in love, transformed by the Word of God.
- Expressing Christ's love and compassion in practical, purposeful and sacrificial ways that see people cared for and nurtured pastorally.
- Fostering a real sense of belonging and fellowship with one another so that God's family exists in unity, glorifying Christ.

## LOVING GOD'S PEOPLE IN A COVID-19 WORLD

- Leverage existing ministries and activities. Draw your existing organisational care chart.
- Have you set up the required care teams? (Pivoting from existing care structures or making new teams?) Define the roles and responsibilities of each position on the team.
- Is your database of church members up to date with accurate contact details?
- Has every member of church been contacted by phone to check if the household is OK? (Give clear directions on what you want the calls to do [See Phone Ministry Guide](#))
- List your current communication platforms? (facebook, emails, SMS, Whatsapp groups, phone calls, small group leaders)
- Have you communicated effectively with your congregation that they can reach out for help in multiple formats (Sunday online, small groups, email and personal phone calls with vulnerable people).
- Have you provided an easy system for people to sign up to serve? (Using a [simple online form](#) and asking personally is potentially easier than normal because people want to help).
- Have you considered using existing small groups structures to intentionally provide care? (Either equipping current leaders of the groups or assigning people within the group to mobilise the group in caring for each other) Consider reducing small group size (groups of 5-6 are better for online community) See [Leading a virtual group](#)
- Review: Has your practical care plan enough agility to deal with the evolving restrictions and changes to our gathering sizes? (This includes communicating with all care teams and the church at large regularly about what is possible and when changes are needed).

- Are you ensuring that yourself and all pastoral staff are modeling godly behaviour? (Resisting the temptation to be cavalier in a desire to care for people?)
- Is your care team staying informed about COVID-19? Seek out and listen to trusted sources that have been monitoring COVID-19 and issuing updated information, resources, and recommendations. See <https://preview.nsw.gov.au/covid-19> and <https://www.who.int/>
- Are you encouraging responsible informal care amongst your community through social platforms like facebook? (Note: This is a great addition to a care plan, not the sum total of a plan. It is vital a church does not rely on informal care ).
- Have you considered the practical care needs of your people?
- Have you considered the connection and fellowship needs of your people? (especially the vulnerable, single households, elderly, single parents).
- Have you considered the health needs of your people including mental health issues?
- What existing prayer structures do you have in place? Have you got an effective way of getting the community praying for each other.

**We are here to help. If you would like help book in to talk with one of our consultants about your care plan here: <https://reachaustralia.com.au/online-church-consulting/>**

## APPENDIX

The screenshot shows the 'GET IN TOUCH' page of the EV Church website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'EV Church', 'EV Kids', 'EV Youth', 'Simmons', 'Contact', and 'Search'. Below the navigation is a large black header with the text 'GET IN TOUCH' in white. Underneath, there is a section titled 'We'd love to hear from you!' followed by the text 'Phone the EV Office (02) 4367 2100 or complete the appropriate form below.' There are three bullet points: 'CONTACT US: If you would like care or assistance use the Contact Us form to let us know how we can help.', 'SERVE: If you are able to help out others and serve at EV, let us know via the Serve form.', and 'GIVE: We encourage you to continue financially partnering in our ministry during this different season. The staff team is working just as hard to see us deepen our faith, and to take advantage of the new opportunities before us to reach our community with the gospel. For more info use the Give button.' Below the text are three images with labels: 'Contact Us' (showing people talking), 'Serve' (showing people in a church setting), and 'Give' (showing people sitting on the ground). At the bottom, there is a footer with three columns: 'CONTACT US' (with address and phone number), 'FIND US' (with a map), and 'LINKS' (with social media icons and the 'evHUB' logo).



**Name** **Email \***

First  Last

**Phone**  **My service**

During this time of change due to COVID-19, I would like to chat with one of the ministry team about possibly serving in the following way:

- Caring for People**
- Respond to people needing care
  - Deliver food/gift bags
  - Help those who are most vulnerable

- Tech, Production & Streaming**
- Training people to use things like WhatsApp and Zoom
  - I have skills that could be useful for production and/or streaming
  - I am available to be trained in skills useful for production and/or streaming

- General**
- I've got time - as other things come up please contact me

- My Time Availability**
- Weekdays
  - Weeknights
  - Weekend days
  - Weekend nights

- Best Way to Contact Me**
- Email
  - Text Message
  - Phone Call

**Comments:**

Source: <https://evchurch.info/serve/>