

Public Health Orders and restrictions

To deal with the public health risk of COVID-19 and its possible consequences, the Minister for Health and Medical Research has made a number of Orders, under section 7 of the Public Health Act 2010. Orders can be amended frequently. For the most up to date orders, and the history of each order, visit [NSW Legislation - COVID-related legislation](#) .

For help in understanding the public health orders, refer to NSW Government: [What you can and can't do under the rules](#) and [Industry guidelines for COVID Safe workplaces](#)

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Vaccination

Health care workers



The [Public Health \(COVID 19 Vaccination of Health Care Workers\) Order 2021](#) commenced on 26 August 2021. The Order establishes mandatory requirements for health staff and persons working in health settings to be vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Order requires the first dose of a vaccine by 30 September 2021, with a second dose required by 30 November 2021

The Order applies to:

- in the public sector, persons who work for the NSW Health Service, for a public health organisation, the Health Administration Corporation and Ambulance Service of NSW, as well as staff of the Ministry of Health
- in the private sector a person who does work in a private health facility, being a private hospital or day procedure centre
- in the private sector, registered paramedics whose work involves transporting, or assessing whether to transport, persons to and from a public or private health facility.

Work is defined broadly to cover employees, contractors, VMOs, visiting practitioners, volunteers and students undertaking clinical placements.

 **The Order does not however include private primary care providers such as GPs.** 

Employers are responsible for taking reasonable steps to ensure workers comply with the Order.

Workers will need to provide evidence of having received a COVID-19 vaccination if requested to do so by their employer. Employers will be able to request this information.

An exemption is available for a worker if they are unable to be vaccinated due to a medical contraindication.

Workers will be required to provide evidence of a medical contraindication via a certificate from a medical practitioner, in a [form](#) approved by the CHO, that specifies the medical

contraindication.

There is an exemption that will apply if a person needs to do work in a medical emergency or non-medical emergency.

The Minister may exempt other persons from these requirements, but only if satisfied it is necessary to protect the health and well-being of patients in the facility

Aged care facilities

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities\) Order 2021](#) requires staff (including contractors) of a residential aged care facility (RACF) and persons engaged by the operator to provide services, including health practitioners engaged by the operator, (other than students and certain maintenance contractors) to have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination in order to enter or remain at the RACF after **9am on 17 September 2021**.

The Order also requires students on placement and health practitioners engaged by a resident to have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination in order to enter or remain at the RACF after **9am on 31 October 2021**.

Workers will need to provide evidence of having received a COVID 19 vaccination if requested to do so by their employer. Employers will be able to request this information.

An exemption is available for a worker if they are unable to be vaccinated due to a medical contraindication. Workers will be required to provide evidence of a medical contraindication via a certificate from a medical practitioner, in a [form](#) approved by the CHO, that specifies the medical contraindication.

There is an exemption that will apply if a person needs to do work in a medical emergency or non-medical emergency.

The Minister may exempt other persons from these requirements, but only if satisfied it is necessary to protect the health and well-being of patients in the facility

Interstate travellers

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Interstate Travellers\) Order \(No 3\) 2021](#) allows for a risk based approach to responding to risks relating to COVID-19 that arise in different jurisdictions.

The Order allows the Chief Health Officer to designate 3 different interstate zones in a COVID-19 concerns notice:

- [affected areas](#) – persons entering NSW who have been in an affected area in the previous 14 days must complete a traveller's declaration
- [areas of concern](#) – persons who have been to an area of concern in the previous 14 days must only leave home with a reasonable excuse
- [places of high concern](#) – can be either a 'close' or 'casual' contact place.
- A person who is not a NSW resident cannot enter NSW if they have been to a close contact place.

- A person who has been to a casual contact place is permitted to enter NSW only if they have had a negative COVID-19 test result, after they have become a casual contact.
- A person in NSW who has been to a close contact place must [self-isolate](#) for a full 14 days since the time and date listed in the notice of concerns.
- A person in NSW who has been to a casual contact place, must [self-isolate](#) until they receive a negative test result for COVID-19, taken after they have been to the venue at the date and time listed.
- There are provisions to allow a resident of the ACT to transit through NSW to directly return to the ACT.

If a COVID-19 concerns notice is in effect, details can be found on the [NSW Government website](#).

COVID-19 concerns notice

The Chief Health Officer can make a [COVID-19 concerns notice](#) which sets out any:

- affected areas
- areas of concerns
- places of high concern.

There is a current [COVID-19 concerns notice](#) in effect that sets out the affected areas, areas of concern and places of high concern. For information about the current COVID-19 concerns notice, visit the [NSW Government website](#).

Affected areas

- The COVID-19 concerns notice can designate a place outside of NSW as an "affected area".
- People over 16 years of age who enter NSW and who have been in an affected area in the previous 14 days must complete a traveller self-declaration form within the 24-hour period prior to entering, or on entering NSW. The contact information collected on this form will be used for contact tracing, if required.
- The COVID-19 concerns notice may also designate the relevant points of entry, such as entry by rail or entry by air. If relevant entry points are designated then people using these entry points must complete the declaration. If no relevant entry points are designated, then all persons entering NSW who have been in an affected area in the previous 14 days, regardless of their mode of transport, must complete the declaration.

Areas of concern

- The COVID-19 concerns notice can designate a place outside of NSW as an "area of concern".
- If an area of concern has been designated, then a person who has been in the area of concern in the last 14 days, and after the date specified in the COVID-19 concerns notice, must only leave home with a reasonable excuse.

Places of high concern

The COVID-19 concerns notice can designate places outside of NSW or transport routes as a "place of high concern" and will specify whether they are close or casual places of high

concern.

Close contact places

- A person who has been to a close contact place of high concern at the time specified in the notice and is not usually a resident of NSW, must not enter NSW.
- A person in NSW that has been to a place of high concern at the time specified in the notice, must immediately travel to their residence and self-isolate for 14 days since they were last at the place of high concern. While travelling to the residence, they must comply with the [Interstate Traveller Guidelines](#).

Self-isolation means:

- you cannot leave your residence / accommodation unless you are seeking medical treatment, or it is an emergency
- you cannot permit someone to enter the premises unless the person usually lives at the residence
- while self-isolating, you must comply with the [NSW Health COVID-19 self-isolation guideline](#).

Casual contact places

- A person who has been to a casual contact place of high concern at the time specified in the notice must not enter NSW unless:
 - they are a NSW resident, or
 - they have been tested for COVID-19 after being at the place of high concern, and received a negative result.
- A person in NSW that has been to a casual contact place of high concern at the time specified in the notice, must immediately travel to their residence and self-isolate until they return a negative COVID-19 test result. While travelling to the residence, they must comply with the [Interstate Traveller Guidelines](#).
- A casual contact must retain a copy of their negative test result.

Residents of the ACT

A person who is a resident of the ACT and has been to a place of high concern at the time specified in the notice, can enter NSW for the purpose of transiting to the ACT. In such a case, they must travel by the most practicable direct route and comply with the [Interstate Traveller Guidelines](#) while in NSW.

Exemptions and approvals

An [exemption](#) is in place so that a:

- NSW and Victorian border region resident does not have to complete a declaration if they are only travelling within the border region
- NSW border region resident does not need to follow the stay at home rules if the only place they have been to in Victoria is the border region.

An [exemption](#) is in place so that a person entering NSW from the Queensland border region only needs to complete a declaration form once every 72 hours.

An [exemption](#) is in place so that a person entering NSW from the Australian Capital Territory border region only needs to complete a declaration form once every 72 hours.

An [exemption](#) is in place to allow a person to be away from their residence for the purposes of feeding and attending to animals but only if no other person is reasonably available to care for the animals, subject to certain conditions.

Mandatory face coverings

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings\) Order \(No 4\) 2021](#) commenced on 26 June 2021. This Order creates some additional requirements for Greater Sydney (including Sydney, the Central Coast, Shellharbour, and Wollongong). The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) prevails over the Mandatory Face Coverings Order. For more information see requirements around [face masks](#).

Penalties apply for not wearing or carrying a mask:

- \$40 for a person aged 15 and under
- \$80 for a person aged 16-17
- \$500 for a person aged 18 and above

An [exemption](#) is in place on commercial aircrafts and in NSW airports for flight crew and airport workers such as an engineer or other technical staff, and a range of other activities in connection with an aircraft, where they are not interacting directly with passengers.

Spitting and coughing

[Public Health \(COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing\) Order \(No 3\) 2021](#) directs that a person must not intentionally spit at or cough on public officials or other workers in a way that is reasonably likely to cause fear about the spread of COVID-19.

The Order is supported by an amendment to the Public Health Regulation which makes a breach of this Order a penalty notice offence with an on-the-spot fine of \$5000.

COVID-19 Safety - gathering and movement restrictions

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Safety\) Order 2021](#) repeals and replaces [Public Health \(COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#).

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Safety\) Order 2021](#) contains directions on COVID-19 Safety Plans, COVID-19 safe check-in, the exchange of information, and residential aged care facilities. The Order requires certain premises and events to have a COVID-19 safety plan that addresses the matters in a checklist approved by the Chief Health Officer. Residential aged care facilities are directed to consider the [advice of the Chief Health Officer](#).

QR codes

To facilitate contact tracing, the Order requires persons entering specified types of premises to register their contact details use the NSW Government QR code. More information can be found on the [NSW Government website](#) .

Additional restrictions for Delta outbreak

To protect the people of NSW from the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, new additional restrictions have been introduced in Greater Sydney and in regional NSW.

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak\) Order 2021 \(No 2\)](#) contains directions on staying at home and additional restrictions.

The rules can change frequently and more information can be found on the [NSW Government website](#) .

Stay at home areas

Stay at home restrictions apply across New South Wales. A person who has to follow the stay at home rules can only be away from their home with a reasonable excuse. A person who lives in a stay at home area must return to their place of residence as soon as reasonably practicable if directed by a Police officer (who has a reasonable suspicion a person is not complying with the stay at home requirements).

In stay at home areas, a person must wear a mask at all times when outdoors (excluding when at home).

A person can also only enter Greater Sydney (which includes the Blue Mountains and Wollongong) from outside of Greater Sydney with a reasonable excuse.

Reasonable excuses include:

- obtaining food or other goods and services locally (within your own local government area, or, if in another local government area, within 5 kilometres of your home).
 - Only one person in the household can leave their residence to obtain food, goods or services once a day. This restriction does not apply if it is not reasonably practicable (e.g. if a parent needs to take their dependent child to the shops with them).
 - Browsing in shops is prohibited and not a reasonable excuse to leave your home.
- travelling to attend work or education (where it is not possible to do at home). An employer must direct their staff to work from home if reasonably practicable.
- exercise or recreation outdoors in groups of no more than 2 (excluding members of the same household):
 - for exercise or recreation people must stay in their Local government area or, if in another local government area, within 5 kilometres of home.
- obtaining medical care or supplies – including obtaining a COVID-19 vaccination
- providing care or assistance to a vulnerable person
- attending a small funeral of no more than 10 persons (excluding the person conducting the service and any other person necessary for the conduct and preparation of the service). A funeral cannot occur in a place of residence.

A person over 18 must carry documentary evidence showing their address and show it to Police on request.

Taking a holiday is not a reasonable excuse.

Attending a wedding is not a reasonable excuse.

Outside of Greater Sydney, people may inspect property or move to a new place of residence.

In Greater Sydney, people may inspect property or move between residences within Greater Sydney. A person in Greater Sydney may move between a different place of residence outside of Greater Sydney of the person (e.g. a holiday house or other property) but only if:

- the movement is for work and only the person who is working moves
- the movement is for urgent repairs or maintenance or animal welfare but only 1 person moves.

A person in Greater Sydney may inspect real estate outside of greater Sydney but only if there is a genuine intention to move and reside there.

Car-pooling is prohibited in areas subject to stay at home rules. People:

- **cannot** travel in a vehicle with people other than their members of their own household
- must carry documentation evidence of their address if they are over 18 when in a vehicle with another person and provide it to police on request

This does not apply to vehicles being used

- to provide public transport
- for work (e.g. Police, Ambulance)
- to provide care and assistance to a vulnerable person
- for an emergency or for compassionate reasons.

Visitors to the home in stay at home areas

In [areas subject to stay at home rules](#), there are additional limits on how many visitors you can have in your home.

Only authorised visitors are permitted in your home in a stay at home area. An authorised visitor is someone attending your home for:

- **1 visitor**
 - to fulfil carers' responsibilities or provide care or assistance
 - for compassionate reasons (including where two persons are in a relationship but do not live together)
 - where an adult person does not live with any other adult, a [social visitor](#) nominated by the adult. However, the rules for nominated [social visitors](#) must be complied with.
Note: A child dependent of the **1 visitor** is permitted to attend the residence, but only if the child needs to be supervised and alternative childcare arrangements cannot be made
- work - particular rules apply for prescribed work

- childcare
- giving effect to custody arrangements
- assist a person to move house
- avoiding injury or illness or to escape harm
- in an emergency
- to view or inspect real property for sale or lease or participate in an auction.

Each visitor would need to meet the [reasonable excuse](#) exemption before they could visit another residence.

Nominated social visitor (single person bubble)

A person who lives alone or with no other adults is able to nominate a "nominated visitor" who will be able to visit the single person at their residence.

- It will be a reasonable excuse for the nominated visitor to leave their residence to visit the single person or to travel with the person for exercise/outdoor recreation.
- The single person and a nominated visitor can travel together in a vehicle and they don't have to wear a mask when doing so.
- A single person can only have one nominated visitor (but can have a new nominated visitor if the previous nominated visitor becomes unable to be the nominated visitor)
- The nominated visitor cannot be nominated as any other person's visitor.
- If the single person lives in an [area of concern](#), the nominated visitor must live within 5 kilometres of the single person and have a [permit](#) .
- If the single person lives anywhere else in the Greater Sydney area, the nominated visitor must live in Greater Sydney but cannot live in an [area of concern](#).
- If the single person lives outside of Greater Sydney, the nominated visitor must live in the same local government area.

Workers in places of residence (renovations, repairs, maintenance and cleaning of homes)

Workers are permitted in places of residence, including for 'prescribed' trades work (cleaning, repairs, maintenance, alterations and additions to buildings, trade work, gardening and landscaping) in [areas subject to stay at home rules](#) (except [areas of concern](#)) if:

- no more than 2 workers are working at the same time (whether or not the workers are carrying out prescribed work or other work) or 5 persons if they are all outside and
- no person, other than a worker, is in the same room when the worker is carrying out the work.

In [areas of concern](#), where prescribed work is being carried out there can only be 5 workers outside.

Workers who live in [areas of concern](#) can only leave their Local Government Area for work if they are an authorised worker.

Construction in Greater Sydney

Density limits at construction sites in Greater Sydney are the lesser of 1 per 4 square metres or 50% of the maximum daily workforce of the construction site.

Additional restrictions also apply for construction workers who live in an [area of concern](#).

A person who lives in an [area of concern](#) must not enter a **construction site** in Greater Sydney unless the person has:

- had 2 doses of vaccine
- had one dose at least 21 days ago
- had one dose with 21 days and has been tested for COVID-19 within the preceding 72 hours
- a certified medical contraindication (being that a medical practitioner has certified, in a form approved by the CHO, that the person has a medical contraindication to the vaccine).

A worker whose place of residence is in one of the [areas of concern](#) must carry the required evidence when on a construction site and produce it on request to their employer, the occupier, a police officer or authorised officer. There is an obligation on the occupier to ensure that the person has the required evidence.

The required evidence is:

- proof of address
- and:
 - evidence from the Australian Immunisation Register that the person has had 1 or 2 doses of the vaccine
 - evidence that the person has been tested for COVID
 - a medical certificate showing the medical contraindication.

Closure of certain premises in areas subject to stay at home rules

Certain venues are closed to the public in [areas subject to stay at home rules](#), including:

- food and drink premises and pubs (except for take-away)
- entertainment, amusement centres, and indoor recreation facilities (including gyms)
- casinos and nightclubs
- places of public worship, except for the purposes of a funeral or memorial service or providing education or childcare
- spas, nail and beauty salons and hairdressers
- caravan parks and camping grounds, except for the purposes of permanent residents of the caravan park or camping ground, overnight travellers, persons working in the local area or other persons who have no other place of permanent residence (in areas that were not under stay at home rules prior to 14 August 2021, people can continue to stay in caravan parks and camping on a booking made before 5pm on 14 August)
- non-essential retail businesses (click and collect and delivery still allowed)

Other restrictions also apply to businesses in areas subject to the stay at home rules. For further details see [NSW Government website](#) .

Permit to leave Greater Sydney

Certain persons residing in Greater Sydney must not leave Greater Sydney without a [permit](#) . A permit is required if the person is:

- moving temporarily or permanently to a place outside of Greater Sydney (including moving between residences)
 - A person cannot leave Greater Sydney to move between places of residence unless it is for work or urgent repairs and maintenance.
- inspecting residential property outside of Greater Sydney (a person needs a genuine intention to reside at the place and it must be an inspection for a residence)
- going more than 50 kilometres from Greater Sydney to carry out work. A permit is not required for emergency services, such as a member of the Ambulance Service of NSW or the NSW Police. An [exemption](#) is also in place for certain persons providing a health service and certain Australian Defence Force, subject to certain conditions.

Areas of concern (additional requirements for certain areas in Greater Sydney)

Additional restrictions are in place for people who live in areas of concern. These include:

- the Local Government Area of **Bayside**
- the Local Government Area of **Blacktown**
- the Local Government Area of **Burwood**
- the Local Government Area of **Campbelltown**
- the Local Government Area of **Canterbury-Bankstown**
- the Local Government Area of **Cumberland**
- the Local Government Area of **Fairfield**
- the Local Government Area of **Georges River**
- the Local Government Area of **Liverpool**
- the Local Government Area of **Parramatta**
- the Local Government Area of **Strathfield**
- the **suburbs of** Caddens, Claremont Meadows, Colyton, Erskine Park, Kemps Creek, Kingswood, Mount Vernon, North St Marys, Orchard Hills, Oxley Park, St Clair and St Marys (within the Local Government Area of Penrith).

A person who lives in an area of concern:

- cannot leave the area of concern in which they live for the purposes of work, unless they are an [authorised worker](#) (from 28 August, authorised workers must have a permit issued by Service NSW)
 - From 6 Septemebr, an authorised worker (who is at least 16 years of age) must not leave the area of concern for work unless the worker has had one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has a medical certificate indicating a medical contraindication and carries the

required evidence. However, this does not apply if the person has not been in the area of concern in the previous 14 days.

- must obtain goods and services within 5 kilometres of their home (or, if not reasonably available in the 5 kilometre radius, from another place in the area of concern, or, if not reasonably available in the area of concern, from the closest place in Greater Sydney)
 - may only leave home to obtain goods and services if no member of the person's household, including the person, has already left the home on that day to obtain goods or services, unless not reasonably practical
 - may only exercise within 5 kilometres of their home for one hour a day
 - unless not reasonably practical, only one person from the household may leave once each day to obtain goods or services
 - outdoor recreation is not permitted (exercise is permitted and supervising a child under 12 who is exercising or engaging in play)
 - must wear a mask at all times when outdoors (excluding when at home). General exemptions from mask wearing continue to apply.

Classes, lectures, exams or other teaching or assessment sessions must not be conducted in person at an education institution in an area of concern. This does not apply to schools or an educational institution operated by NSW Health. However, a person still needs a reasonable excuse to leave their home and this only includes education if they person cannot reasonably learn from home.

Shops that sell office or pet supplies are closed to members of the public.

Retail premises that predominately sell the following are closed, except for trade and business customers:

- garden centres and plant nurseries
- hardware and building supplies
- landscaping material supplies
- rural suppliers
- timber yards.

Curfew

A person who lives in an area of concern can only be away from home between 9pm and 5am with a reasonable excuse. These include:

- work
- childcare
- medical services
- caring and care for vulnerable people
- emergencies
- animal welfare
- legal obligations.

A person whose place of residence is an area of concern must, if directed by a Police officer who has a reasonable suspicion the person is not complying with the stay at home requirements, return to their place of residence as soon as reasonably practicable.

Permits to leave and enter areas of concern

From 28 August:

- a person cannot enter an area of concern to carry out work unless they have a permit issued by Service NSW. This excludes emergency services, such as a member of the Ambulance Service of NSW or the NSW Police or members of the Australian Defence Force, if they live outside of an area of concern but their usual place of work is in an area of concern
- an authorised worker must not leave the area of concern for work without a permit issued by Service NSW. This excludes emergency services, such as a member of the Ambulance Service of NSW or the NSW Police or members of the Australian Defence Force, if they live in an area of concern and their usual place of work is outside an area of concern.

Early education or care and disability support services

From 6 September a "relevant care worker" (being certain persons working in early education or care facilities or providing disability and support services in person to persons with a disability) who is at least 16 years of age and lives or works in an area of concern must not enter premises for work unless they have:

- had one dose of the COVID vaccine, or
- a medical certificate indicating a medical contraindication.

Persons required to be vaccinated before working must carry the required evidence (evidence showing name, address and vaccination evidence) and produce it for inspection if requested by the employer, the occupier of premises, a police officer or an authorised officer.

Surveillance testing requirements

Surveillance testing for workers who live in Greater Sydney (including the Blue Mountains and Wollongong) and their employers:

- a Greater Sydney worker must not enter premises for work that are more than 50 kilometres outside Greater Sydney unless the worker has been tested for COVID-19 in the previous 7 days and has evidence of the test available for inspection by their employer or a police office (this requirement does not apply to workers leaving the other [areas subject to stay at home rules](#))
- the occupier of non-residential premises must not permit a Greater Sydney worker to enter the premises unless the worker has been tested in accordance with these requirements
- a person must provide information, including proof of address and proof the person has been tested for COVID-19 to a police officer on request in order to enable the officer to determine whether the person is an affected worker or a Greater Sydney worker.

An [exemption](#) to the surveillance testing requirements is in place for emergency workers, subject to certain conditions.

Requirements around face masks

Face masks must now be worn by persons over 12 years in all indoor and outdoor areas of non-residential premises across all of NSW, except when engaging in physical exercise. A person must carry a mask, even when they are exercising.

There are certain exemptions to this requirement.

In [areas subject to stay at home rules](#), masks must be worn in additional locations including:

- indoor common property areas of residential premises (e.g. lifts and lobbies of apartment blocks)
- indoor and outdoor areas of food markets
- outdoor areas near food, drink or retail premises
- outdoor areas while working.

People in [areas subject to stay at home rules](#) must carry a mask with them at all times when away from their residence.

Additional restrictions apply in the [areas of concern](#).

A person who claims to have a medical exemption to wearing a mask must:

- carry relevant evidence indicating that they have a physical or mental illness, condition or disability that makes wearing a mask unsuitable, being:
 - a certificate or other evidence signed by a registered health practitioner or a NDIS provider, or
 - a statutory declaration signed by the person (note it is an offence to lie in a statutory declaration)
- produce the evidence and give a copy to police on request
- give their name and address to police on request.

Please visit [What you can and can't do](#) for further information on COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

Exemptions and approvals

The Minister may, in writing and subject to the conditions the Minister considers appropriate, grant an exemption to the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Safety\) Order 2021](#) or the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) or specified provisions of these orders.

If you are requesting an exemption to enter to a NSW health facility, please contact the relevant hospital. For further information, please visit [supporting visits](#).

A copy of any exemption granted will be provided to relevant agencies including NSW Police.

Any request for [exemption](#) will be carefully considered on a case-by-case basis.

Current exemptions to the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) :

- An exemption given in relation to Greater Sydney **will also apply** to the Newcastle, Hunter region, Armidale region, Tamworth region, the Northern Rivers and the Dubbo Regional Local Government Area.
- An [exemption](#) is in place for outdoor golfing events of more than 2 people, subject to specific conditions.
- An [exemption](#) is in place concerning singing and chanting in places of public worship.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to permit persons to stay at a caravan park or camping ground in the Newcastle and Hunter region under a booking:
 - that was made before 5 August, and
 - has not been extended after 5 August.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to permit persons to stay at a caravan park or camping ground in the Armidale region under a booking:
 - that was made before 7 August, and
 - has not been extended after 7 August.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to allow people to continue staying in a caravan park or camping ground in the Tamworth on a booking made before 9 August provided the booking is not extended.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to allow people to continue staying in a caravan park or camping ground in the Northern Rivers on a booking made before 9 August provided the booking is not extended.
- The order allows people to continue staying in a caravan park or camping ground in the Dubbo Regional Local Government Area and Far North area on a booking made before 11 August provided the booking is not extended.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to permit certain union officials who live in areas of concern to leave the area of concern in which they live so they go can to workplaces where their member's work.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to permit:
 - auction houses to be open to members for the purpose for the purpose of an auction for food supply, livestock, fibre or crops to take place in regional NSW
 - a person participating in an auction for food supply, livestock, fibre or crops taking place in regional NSW
 - a person can participate in an outdoor gathering in regional NSW for the purpose of an auction for food supply, livestock, fibre or crops.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to permit premises that are required to be closed to the public to be open while being used by, or on behalf of, a local health district, Statutory Health Corporation, the Health Administration Corporation or the Ministry of Health as a vaccination clinic or vaccination hub.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to allow a person to be away from their residence for the purposes of feeding and attending to animals but only if no other person is reasonably available to care for the animals, subject to certain conditions.

- An [exemption](#) is in place to allow two visitors to a place of residence for the purpose of fulfilling carers' responsibilities, but only if it is reasonably necessary to provide care to a person who is a resident at the dwelling. Visitors must remain at the residence for the minimum period required to provide safe care to the person.
- An [exemption](#) is in place from the requirement for a permit to work outside of Greater Sydney for certain persons providing a health service and certain Australian Defence Force, subject to certain conditions. The exemption will also apply, from 28 August, to the requirement to obtain a permit for persons entering an area of concern to carry out work and authorised workers leaving an area of concern for work.
- An [exemption](#) to clarify a person to be away from their place or residence to attend a job interview or a job assessment if the interview or assessment cannot be conducted from their place of residence.
- An [exemption](#) to allow a person in an area of concern to leave their residence between 9pm and 5am in order to drive a "Family or Household Member" (which is defined) to and from their place of employment and their residence. This is subject to the condition that the travel must be by the most practicable direct route and details of the Family or Household Member's employment must be provided to a police officer on request.
- An [exemption](#) to exempt a person contracted to provide services to the ADF from the requirement to obtain a permit. This is subject to the condition that the person provide a letter or other document from the Australian Defence Force indicating that the person is providing services to the Australian Defence Force on request of a police officer.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to allow a person to stay in a caravan park or camping ground if their place of residence is another State or Territory and the person is unable to return to their place of residence because of border closures or restrictions on returning travellers in other jurisdictions.
- An [exemption](#) is in place to permit car-pooling for work purposes in regional NSW, subject to certain conditions.

Current exemptions to the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) (note that if there is an inconsistency, any exemption under the Gathering Restrictions Order is not in effect until the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) is repealed):

- An [exemption](#) is in place concerning organised groups (schools, child care, aged care, or disability groups) providing contact details at specified premises, subject to specific conditions.
- An [exemption](#) is in place concerning providing contact details at stadiums, subject to specific conditions.

Quarantine requirements

Air transportation quarantine and testing

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) (the Order) commenced on 7 June 2021.

The Order revokes and remakes the Public Health (COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine) Order 2021.

Public Health (COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine) Order (No 2) Amendment (Vaccination and Testing) Order 2021 commenced 2 July 2021.

The Order was **amended** on 25 June 2021 to:

- Establish the **NSW Airport and Quarantine Workers Vaccination Program**: Workers specified in the NSW Airport and Quarantine Workers Vaccination Program can only enter the workplace or provide services if they have received at least the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Employers of these workers must ensure that their workers comply with this requirement. This provision will commence at 12pm on 28 June 2021.
 - An **exemption** has been signed in relation to a worker who has arranged a vaccine date of prior to 6 July. Such a worker a worker can continue to provide services provided that they attend for the vaccination at the arranged time and receive the vaccine. The worker must also provide details about the arranged date to NSW Police, NSW Health and their employer on request
- Extend the **NSW Airport and Quarantine Workers Testing Program**:
 - Workers specific in the testing program cannot carry out, or continue to carry out, functions or provide, or continue to provide, services in relation to a quarantine facility, transportation service or airport unless they have been tested for COVID-19 in accordance with the requirements set out in the NSW Testing Program.
 - Drivers who transport declared flight crew members to and from their residence are included in the testing program
 - There is a new obligation on the employer to ensure workers have been tested for COVID-19 in accordance with the NSW Testing Program, and to notify the Chief Health Officer if they become aware that a worker has not been tested
- Transport drivers must comply with the **NSW Health Air Transportation Guidelines**. This includes declared flight crew members who are permitted to drive themselves to their residence to self-isolate.
- **Approved transportation and provision of information:** an employer of certain flight crew members must arrange approved transportation services for those flight crew members to travel and from their residences. Approved transportation service means:
 - a transport service provided by, or on behalf of, the Australian Defence Force
 - a transport service by a flight crew transport service provider whose details have been notified to the Commissioner of Police. These details must be provided to the Commission of Police within 48 hours of the commencement of this Order for all drivers who were employed at this time. If there are drivers who will commence working at the transport service after commencement of this Order, these drivers' names and contact details must be provided to the Commissioner of Police at least 48 hours before the person commences employment
 - an approved personal transportation of a declared flight crew member. This means a private vehicle that the declared flight crew member drives or rides to or from their residence, with no passengers.

A person who provides a transportation service to these persons must comply with the direction of the Commissioner of Police at an airport or quarantine facility, and if requested by a police officer, provide their name and contact details.

- **Specific mask obligations:** a mask that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by:
 - a person being transported to/from a quarantine facility or place of self-isolation, and while they are at a quarantine facility (other than in their personal room)

- a person transporting passengers to and from a quarantine facility or place of self-isolation.

The mask must fit securely around their face and covering their nose and mouth at all times. Certain exemptions may apply (for example if the passenger is 12 years or under; if the person has a physical/mental health illness/condition preventing use of the mask; or in an emergency).

Air transportation quarantine requirements

- Relevant persons must undertake mandatory quarantine in a quarantine or medical facility. A relevant person is a person who arrives in NSW by aircraft who:
 - has been in a country other than Australia or New Zealand 14 days before arrival, or
 - arrives from New Zealand and another person on the aircraft has been in a country other than Australia, New Zealand, the Cook Islands or Niue in the previous 14 days.
- If a person who arrives in NSW by land and who in the previous 14 days has been to a country other than Australia or New Zealand, and the Chief Health Officer considers them to be a risk, the person must go to a quarantine or medical facility determined by the Chief Health Officer and remain there for the quarantine period.
- People in quarantine must comply with any determination of the NSW Police Commissioner in relation to their transit at the airport and to the quarantine facility
- The quarantine period starts when the person arrives in NSW (day 0) and ends:
 - when at least 14 full days have passed, and the Chief Health is satisfied that the person does not pose a risk of infecting another person with COVID-19, or
 - after 24 days.
 For a person in a quarantine or medical facility, the quarantine period can only end after 14 days if the Chief Health Officer is satisfied that they will be tested for COVID-19 on day 16 (2 days after leaving the facility), or, if they cannot be tested due to circumstances beyond their control, that they will be tested as soon as practicable after leaving the facility.
- A person cannot leave the quarantine facility during the quarantine period except in limited cases, including in an emergency. If a person leaves a quarantine facility because of an emergency they must comply with directions of the Commissioner of Police.
- A person subject to the Public Health (COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine) Order (No 2) 2021 is also subject to the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Self Isolation\) Order 2021](#) . In the event of any consistency, the latter order takes precedence.

Directions and information for International Flight Crew

The Order makes different directions for flight crew:

- Flight crew who are not NSW or Australian residents must go into quarantine when they arrive into NSW. However, they can leave to fly out of Australia provided they are tested on arrival in NSW for COVID-19 and comply with any other testing request of the Chief Health Officer.
- NSW residents can self-isolate at home if they are a "declared flight crew member." This means that they have been tested for COVID-19 prior to leaving the airport and have provided their contact details and a declaration to NSW Health. They must comply with the [NSW Health Air Transportation Guidelines](#). Declared flight crew members can leave self-isolation to fly out of Australia if they have complied with any testing request of the

Chief Health Officer. During the quarantine period, a declared flight crew member may also leave self-isolation to undertake essential flight duties (such as safety or security training or flight simulation).

- Interstate flight crew can leave NSW to go home using suitable transport if they have been tested prior to leaving the airport, and have provided a declaration to NSW Health. The crew member must comply with the [Onward Domestic Travel of International Aircrew Guidelines](#).
- Employers of declared flight crew members must arrange employee transportation to and from an employee's residence or accommodation, and ensure compliance with the [NSW Health Air Transportation Guidelines](#).
- A class exemption is in place for quick turnaround flights. Certain flights where the flight crew do not leave the plane may be exempt from the requirement to be tested on arrival, subject to conditions which are specified in the [exemption](#).

For more information visit [flight crew quarantine and self-isolation requirements.COVID-19 testing for international flight crew: frequently asked questions](#) provides further information about COVID-19 testing of flight crew and management of results.

New Zealand arrivals

On 19 August 2021, the NSW Chief Health Officer signed a [Notice](#) declaring New Zealand as a COVID-19 hotspot and a [Determination](#) that a person arriving from that area must either immediately leave Australia or go into quarantine.

Provided there are no risks and there are no New Zealand COVID-19 hotspots, passengers from New Zealand **do not** need to quarantine if:

- they have not been in a country other than Australia or New Zealand in the 14 days before the arrival, and
- they, and people on their flight, have only been in Australia, New Zealand, the Cook Islands or Niue in the 14 days prior to arrival
- they have completed an Australian Traveller Declaration form (ATD)
- they have not been to a New Zealand COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days.

Travellers from New Zealand, may be screened on arrival. If assessed as posing an unacceptable risk of transmission of COVID-19, a passenger may be directed to quarantine.

If a person has been in the Cook Islands

People who are travelling from New Zealand who have been in the Cook Islands or Niue in the previous 14 days should be aware that there is **no quarantine-free** travel arrangement with NSW and the Cook Islands or Niue.

Mandatory quarantine is still required for people who have been in the Cook Islands or Niue in the 14 days prior to their arrival in NSW.

People who travel to New Zealand from the Cook Islands or Niue should remain in New Zealand for at least 14 days before travelling on to NSW in order to avoid being required to enter quarantine on arrival.

NSW Testing Program

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Air Transportation Quarantine\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) requires staff working at the airport and in quarantine facilities to comply with the NSW Testing Program for COVID-19.

The [NSW quarantine worker surveillance and testing program](#) sets out when different categories of worker must be tested.

The testing program currently includes:

- designated quarantine facility workers
- designated transportation providers
- designated airport workers.

Unaccompanied minors

All unaccompanied minors must quarantine in a quarantine or medical facility on arrival into NSW.

For further information, see the [fact sheet for parents and guardians of unaccompanied minors arriving from overseas](#) or contact the NSW Health Quarantine Exemptions Unit at MOH-COVID19-Quarantine@health.nsw.gov.au or on 1300 288 222.

Maritime quarantine

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Maritime Quarantine\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) sets conditions on persons who arrive in NSW by vessel (the order does not apply to vessels originating in Australia, that have not stopped at a port outside of Australia, and where each person boarded the vessel in Australia, and no one on the vessel has been outside of Australia or New Zealand in the previous 14 days).

Conditions include:

- a person who arrives in NSW from overseas on a vessel must not disembark unless the person:
 - is authorised to do so by the Commissioner of Police
 - disembarks for the purpose of undertaking an essential task (for example unloading cargo)
 - is required to do so because of an emergency
- a relevant person who is authorised to disembark from a vessel must do one of the following as directed by the Commissioner of Police:
 - go directly to a quarantine facility
 - go directly to a hospital or medical facility for treatment
 - go directly to an airport or another vessel in order to immediately leave Australia, including via a vessel or flight that stops in another state or territory
- the occupier of a wharf at which a vessel is docked, and the master of the vessel that is docked at the wharf, must develop and comply with a COVID-19 Safety Plan

- crew disembarking the vessel to undertake essential tasks, as well as persons permitted to board a vessel must comply with the [NSW Health Guideline: Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment for Maritime Workers](#) in relation to personal protective equipment
- people boarding a vessel will be required to provide their contact details to the occupier of the wharf using the Service NSW app
- the occupier of a wharf must provide the contact details of anyone who boarded a vessel to NSW Health within 4 hours of requesting the information
- a person subject to the Public Health (COVID-19 Maritime Quarantine) Order (No 2) 2021 is also subject to the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Self Isolation\) Order 2021](#) . In the event of any consistency, the latter order takes precedence.

See information on [exemptions for air and maritime quarantine](#).

Self-isolation

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Self-Isolation\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) requires persons diagnosed with COVID-19 and close contacts of persons diagnosed with COVID-19 to self-isolate and specifies requirements for self-isolation including duration and location.

On 11 June 2021 the Minister made the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Self-Isolation\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) which repeals and remakes the directions in the Public Health (COVID-19 Self-Isolation) Order 2021.

Any requirement to quarantine under the previous Order continues under the new Order.

The Order requires compliance with the NSW Health [self isolation guidelines](#), which may change from time to time.

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Self-Isolation\) Order \(No 2\) 2021](#) allows an authorised medical practitioner to direct a close contact of a COVID case to:

- be tested for COVID-19 and provide details of the date, time and location of any test undertaken, or
- continue their self-isolation period for a further period for a further period up to 10 days.

Penalties for breaching the Public Health Orders

It is an offence to not comply with a public health order and the following penalties can apply:

- a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 6 months and/or a penalty of up to \$11,000
- plus a further \$5,500 fine each day the offence continues.

Corporations that fail to comply with a direction are liable to:

- a fine of \$55,000
- plus a further \$27,500 fine each day the offence continues.

On the spot fines can also be issued:

- \$10,000 for corporations and \$2000 for individuals for a breach of clause 24AC of the Public Health (COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions) Order 2021 -

failure by an employer to not allow employees to work from home unless not reasonably practicable

- \$10,000 for corporations and \$2000 for individuals for a breach of clause 24EA of the Public Health (COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak) Order 2021 - permitting a person whose place of residence is in a [declared area](#) to enter or remain on the construction site unless the occupier is satisfied that the person has complied with specified vaccination obligations (or has a medical contraindication) and carries evidence of their vaccination status.
- \$5000 for a breach of the Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Order (No 2) 2020
- \$5000 for a breach of clause 25A of the Public Health (COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak) Order 2021 - a person must provide information to an authorised contract tracer about their movements and their address
- \$5000 for a breach of the Public Health (COVID-19 Self-Isolation) Order (No 2) 2021
- \$4,000 for a breach of clause 6 of the Public Health (COVID-19 Border Control) Order 2020 - failing to provide or falsifying information to an enforcement officer
- \$3000 for a breach of clause 23 of the Public Health (COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak) Order 2021. Clause 23 - a person must not participate in an outdoor gathering of more than 2 people (subject to limited exceptions)
- \$1,000 in other cases.

Additionally, on the spot fines can be issued to individuals and corporations for a breach of an order relating to not wearing or carrying a mask:

- \$40 for a person aged 15 and under
- \$80 for a person aged 16-17
- \$500 for a person aged 18 and above
- \$1,000 for a corporation

For more information see [Public Health Amendment \(COVID-19 Penalty Notice Offences\) Regulation \(No 3\) 2021](#) .

Requesting exemptions

- [Exemptions for weddings and other gatherings](#)
- [Exemptions for air and maritime quarantine](#)

Current as at: Monday 30 August 2021

Contact page owner: [Health Protection NSW](#)