

Issue 16 of 2021 – 26 June

AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19 GREATER SYDNEY) ORDER 2021

Members are advised that in addition to e-Circulars Issue 14 dated 24 June 2021 and Issue 15 dated 25 June 2021, the abovementioned Public Health Order has now been issued by the NSW State Government.

The [NSW State Premier announced today Saturday 26 June](#) at 2.00pm that a further extension to previous Stay-at-Home Order will come into force from 6.00pm today the Greater Sydney, Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong will be subject to a Stay-at-Home Order. This new Order remains in force until midnight Friday 9 July 2021.

The Order also provides a Direction from the Minister for Health and Medical Research relating to persons who either live or work in the areas listed above, must not, without reasonable excuse:

- (a) Be away from the person's place of residence, wherever they are located, or
- (b) If the person is staying in temporary accommodation, wherever they are located – be away from the temporary accommodation.

The Order provides examples of what constitutes a reasonable excuse for a person to leave their residence for reasons involving:

- (a) Obtaining food or other goods and services, or
- (b) **Travelling for the purpose of work**, or education **if it is not possible to do it from home** (our emphasis), or
- (c) Exercise,
- (d) Medical or caring reasons, including obtaining a COVID-19 vaccination.

The Order also contains a Direction from the Minister that directs a person from outside the areas listed above must not, without reasonable excuse, enter an affected area.

However, a reasonable excuse includes amongst others:

- (a) Entering to go to the person's place of residence in an affected area, or
- (b) Travelling through an affected area if the person does not leave the vehicle while in the area,

The Order restricts the gatherings of more than 10 persons, but this restriction does not apply to a person who is engaged in work. This includes **office buildings, construction sites**, factories and warehouses (our emphasis). [Click here for further clarification from the NSW Government COVID-19 website.](#)

Schedule 1A of the Order contains a list of Reasonable Excuses for persons not to follow the Stay-at-Home Order.

This includes at Point 2:

“Travelling for the purposes of work if the person cannot work from the persons’ place of residence.”

It remains Master Builders advice to Members that construction sites meet both the reasonable excuse requirement to travel to a place of work, where that work cannot be performed at home, and as a permitted place of work even if more than 10 persons attend. Further, members are advised to observe all the usual COVID-19 safety protocols whilst working on construction sites.

Members are also advised that the Order contains a direction from the Minister that a person must not conduct an open inspection of premises for the purposes of the sale or lease of the premises, but a person may show a single person the premises after the person has made an appointment for that purpose.

Also, a person must not conduct an auction at which persons attend in person.

Members are advised to consult the NSW Government COVID-19 website to gain a complete understanding of the latest restrictions.

Members should also note that Master Builders Offices at Forest Lodge, Norwest, Wollongong and Gosford are now closed and will remain so for the duration of the Stay-at-Home Order. Notwithstanding, arrangements have been put in place for Members to telephone or email the Association for advice or assistance.