

Issue 54 of 2021 – 14 August

URGENT COVID-19 UPDATE

PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS FOR DELTA OUTBREAK) AMENDMENT (No.27) ORDER 2021

The NSW Government has published a new Public Health Order (PHO) which can be accessed [here](#).

STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS FOR REGIONAL NSW

Members are advised that the NSW Government has announced that new restrictions apply to Regional NSW from 5.00pm today (14 August 2021) until 12.01am Sunday 22 August 2021.

Every employer across Regional NSW must require their employees to work from home unless it is not reasonably practicable.

Therefore, it is a reasonable excuse to leave your home for work – but only if it is not practicable to work from home. Persons performing construction work in Regional NSW may continue to operate where such work cannot practicably be performed at home. Members should also note that according to this PHO, it introduces the same restrictions that apply in the Greater Sydney area regarding construction work performed at residential premises (occupied), namely no more than 2 workers to carry out work at any one time indoors, and no more than 5 workers carrying out work in an outdoor area of a place of residence (occupied).

Anyone who leaves their home must carry a [face mask](#) with them at all times. They must be worn when working outdoors, in queues waiting for products such as coffee and food. Masks must also be worn in other settings such as by school staff, people in outdoor markets and shopping strips as well as indoor workplaces.

People can still have one visitor at a time to fulfil carer's responsibilities or provide care or assistance, or for compassionate reasons, including where two people are in a relationship but do not live together.

It should also be noted that all hospitality venues must be closed to the public, including pubs, restaurants and cafes except for take-aways.

All retail premises are required to close except for:

- Supermarkets and grocery shops,
- Shops that predominantly sell food or drinks eg; butchers, bakeries, fruit shops and delicatessens, but does not include restaurants or cafes,
- Chemists and pharmacies,
- Kiosks,

- Shops that predominantly sell office supplies, pet supplies, newspapers, magazines and stationery, alcohol, maternity and baby supplies, medical or pharmaceutical supplies,
- Food and drink premises, but only to sell take-away,
- Cellar door premises, but only to sell take-away,
- Hardware and building supplies,
- Landscaping material supplies,
- Rural supplies,
- Timber yards,
- Garden centres and plant nurseries,
- Vehicle hire premises, not including the premises at which vehicles are sold,
- Shops that predominantly carry out mobile phone repairs,
- Service stations, banks, post offices, laundromats and drycleaners can remain open.

NSW Health urges people to continue to present for testing with even the mildest of cold-like symptoms.

There are more than 440 COVID-19 testing locations across NSW, many of which are open seven days a week. To find your nearest testing clinics, [visit NSW Health website](#).

Special rules remain in place for the affected local government areas in Greater Sydney.

For further information please see [NSW Government website](#).

CLARIFICATION ABOUT COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE TESTING

Members are also advised that some confusion has occurred regarding COVID-19 surveillance testing.

As Members would be aware, COVID-19 surveillance testing is required for construction workers residing in the Greater Sydney Local Government Areas (LGAs) of concern where [authorised workers](#) have had one COVID-19 vaccination less than 21 days ago. This requirement was contained in the [Public Health Order \(PHO\) dated 10 August 2021](#) and circulated to Members in [e-Circular issue 47 of 2021](#).

Importantly, the PHO only requires a person to have a surveillance test every 72 hours.

There is no requirement for a person to receive a negative result before proceeding, for example, to work at a construction site.

INCREASED FINES, TEST AND ISOLATE PAYMENTS AND NEW COMPLIANCE MEASURES

Members are advised that the NSW Government has announced that from 12.01am Monday 16 August 2021, fines will increase for Public Health Order breaches as follows:

- \$5,000 on the spot fine for breaching self-isolation rules,
- \$5,000 on the spot fine for lying on a permit (already a criminal offence),
- \$5,000 on the spot fine for lying to a contact tracer (already a criminal offence).



- \$3,000 on the spot fine for breaching the two-person outdoor exercise / recreation rule; and
- \$3,000 on the spot fine for breaching rules around entry into regional NSW for authorised work (construction work), inspecting real estate and travelling to your second home.

Members are also advised that eligible workers aged 17 years and over who live in the [LGAs of concern](#), have symptoms of COVID-19, get tested and isolate until a negative test result is returned, will be eligible for one off \$320 payment in a four week period for lost wages.

Please note, this does not apply to surveillance testing as persons are not required to self-isolate to await a result.

Members are further advised that from 12.01am Saturday 21 August 2021, any person who wishes to travel to Regional NSW for one of the following reasons must have a permit which will be made available on the Service NSW website:

- [Authorised workers from LGAs of concern.](#)
- Inspecting real estate. Any person inspecting real estate in the regions must now genuinely need a home to live in (no investment properties); and
- Travelling to your second home. This is now only allowed if you are using the home for work accommodation or if the home requires urgent maintenance and repairs (if so, only one person may travel there).

If Members have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Association's Industrial Relations Department or Safety Department on 02 8586 3555.