



New South Wales

Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Order 2021

under the

Public Health Act 2010

I, Brad Hazzard, the Minister for Health and Medical Research, make the following Order under section 7 of the *Public Health Act 2010*.

Dated 2 January 2021.

BRAD HAZZARD, MP
Minister for Health and Medical Research

Explanatory note

The object of this Order is to require persons in Greater Sydney to wear fitted face coverings in particular circumstances.

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Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Order 2021

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Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of Order

This Order is the *Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Order 2021*.

2 Commencement

This Order commences at the beginning of 3 January 2021.

3 Definitions

(1) In this Order—

fitted face covering means a mask or other covering that—

- (a) fits securely around the face, and
- (b) is designed or made to be worn over the nose and mouth to provide the wearer with protection against infection.

Greater Sydney means—

- (a) the Greater Sydney Region within the meaning of the *Greater Sydney Commission Act 2015*, and
- (b) the local government areas of the Central Coast and Wollongong.

Note. This comprises the following local government areas—Bayside, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Central Coast, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Inner West, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Liverpool, Mosman, North Sydney, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland Shire, Sydney, The Hills Shire, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollondilly, Wollongong and Woollahra.

hospitality venue means the following—

- (a) a casino,
- (b) a food and drink premises,
- (c) a micro-brewery, small distillery holding a drink on-premises authorisation under the *Liquor Act 2007* or cellar door premises,
- (d) a pub,
- (e) a registered club,
- (f) a small bar.

indoor area includes an area in a building or other structure, whether or not temporary, that has a roof, ceiling or other top covering, but does not include an area with at least 2 sides open to the weather.

public transport waiting area means the following—

- (a) the platform of a passenger railway or light rail station,
- (b) a ferry wharf,
- (c) a bus stop or light rail stop, including any area where persons queue or gather when waiting at the stop,
- (d) a taxi rank, including any area where persons queue or gather when waiting at a taxi rank.

residential aged care facility has the same meaning as in the *Public Health (COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities) Order (No 4) 2020*.

the Act means the *Public Health Act 2010*.

work includes work done as a volunteer or for a charitable organisation.

Note. The Act and the *Interpretation Act 1987* contain definitions and other provisions that affect the interpretation and application of this Order.

- (2) A reference to a type of premises in this Order has the same meaning as it has in the standard instrument set out in the *Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006*.

4 Grounds for concluding there is a risk to public health

The basis for concluding that a situation has arisen that is, or is likely to be, a risk to public health is as follows—

- (a) public health authorities both internationally and in Australia have been monitoring and responding to outbreaks of COVID-19, which is a condition caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2),
- (b) COVID-19 is a potentially fatal condition and is highly contagious,
- (c) a number of cases of individuals who have contracted COVID-19, including by community transmission, have now been confirmed in Greater Sydney and there is an ongoing risk of continuing introduction of COVID-19 into the New South Wales community.

Part 2 Wearing fitted face coverings in Greater Sydney

5 Direction of Minister to wear fitted face coverings

- (1) The Minister directs that a person must wear a fitted face covering at all times when the person is in an indoor area in any of the following premises, or parts of premises, in Greater Sydney—
 - (a) retail premises, or business premises, that provide goods or services to members of the public who attend the premises, including the following—
 - (i) supermarkets,
 - (ii) shopping centres, but not a recreation facility (indoor) in a shopping centre,
 - (iii) bank branches,
 - (iv) post offices,
 - (v) hairdressing salons,
 - (vi) nail salons,
 - (vii) beauty salons,
 - (viii) tanning salons,
 - (ix) waxing salons,
 - (x) spas,
 - (xi) tattoo parlours,
 - (xii) massage parlours,
 - (xiii) betting agencies.

Note. Premises that are used for the purpose of providing health services are not retail premises or business premises.
 - (b) any part of premises licensed under the *Liquor Act 2007* that is used primarily for the purposes of gaming, including a gaming lounge,
Note. Licensed premises include pubs, registered clubs and casinos.
 - (c) entertainment facilities,
 - (d) premises, including places of public worship, being used for public worship or religious services,
 - (e) residential aged care facilities.
- (2) The Minister directs that a person in Greater Sydney must wear a fitted face covering at all times when the person is at a public transport waiting area or in a vehicle or vessel being used to provide a public transport service, including a taxi service or a rideshare service.
- (3) The Minister directs that a person working at a hospitality venue in Greater Sydney whose functions require the person to deal directly with members of the public must wear a fitted face covering at all times while carrying out the functions.
- (4) The Minister directs that the operator of a hospitality venue in Greater Sydney must ensure all persons working at the venue comply with subclause (3).
- (5) Subclauses (1)–(4) do not apply to the following persons—
 - (a) a person aged 12 years or under,
 - (b) a person with a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, that makes wearing a fitted face covering unsuitable including, for example, a skin condition, an intellectual disability, autism or trauma.
- (6) Subclause (1)(e) does not apply to a person at a residential aged care facility who is a resident of the facility.

- (7) Despite subclauses (1)–(4), a person may remove a fitted face covering the person is otherwise required to wear in the following circumstances—
- (a) the person is eating or drinking,
 - (b) the person is communicating with another person who is deaf or hard of hearing,
 - (c) the person is at work and the nature of the person’s work—
 - (i) makes the wearing of a fitted face covering a risk to the person’s, or another person’s health and safety, or
 - (ii) means clear enunciation or visibility of the person’s mouth is essential,
 - (d) the person is asked to remove the fitted face covering to ascertain the person’s identity,
 - (e) because of an emergency,
 - (f) the removal of the fitted face covering is necessary for the proper provision of the goods or service.
- Example.** A person having a facial or a beard trim.
- (8) The Minister directs that a person who removes the person’s fitted face covering under subclause (7) must resume wearing the fitted face covering as soon as practicable after the circumstance ends.

Part 3 Miscellaneous

6 Relationship of Order with other orders

A person subject to a direction under this Order must continue to comply with any directions applicable to the person under—

- (a) the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) 2020*, or
- (b) the *Public Health (COVID-19 Northern Beaches) Order 2020*, or
- (c) an order that remakes, replaces or consolidates, whether in whole or in part, an order referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

7 Exemptions

The Minister may, in writing and subject to the conditions that the Minister considers appropriate, grant an exemption to this Order or specified provisions of this Order.

8 Repeal of Order

This Order is repealed at the beginning of 2 April 2021.