



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 (original order).

As amended on 3 January 2021, 9 January 2021, 28 January 2021 and 11 February 2021.

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.

Editorial note

This is the order as amended by the *Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Amendment Order 2021*, the *Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Amendment (No 2) Order 2021*, the *Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Amendment (No 3) Order 2021* and the *Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Amendment (No 4) 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—

airport worker includes—

- (a) an engineer or other technical staff, and
- (b) a cleaner, and
- (c) a baggage handler, and
- (d) a person involved in the delivery or removal of food, goods or other things in connection with an aircraft, and
- (e) an employee of an airline other than flight crew, and
- (f) a person providing law enforcement or border security services.

domestic commercial aircraft means an aircraft being used to provide passengers with transportation, on a commercial basis, only within Australia.

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.

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.

NSW airport means an airport located in New South Wales.

NSW airspace means the airspace located over New South Wales.

public transport service includes a taxi service, rideshare service and community transport service.

public transport waiting area means the following—

- (a) a station, including the platform, of a passenger railway or light rail,
- (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.

the Act means the *Public Health Act 2010*.

vehicle includes a train and vessel.

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 New South Wales and other Australian jurisdictions and there is an ongoing risk of continuing introduction of COVID-19 into the New South Wales community.

Part 2 Wearing fitted face coverings

5 Direction of Minister to wear fitted face coverings

(1) (Repealed)

(1A) (Repealed)

(2) The Minister directs that—

(a) a person in Greater Sydney must wear a fitted face covering at all times when the person is at a public transport waiting area, and

(a1) a person in Greater Sydney must wear a fitted face covering at all times when—

(i) the person is in a vehicle that is being used to provide a public transport service, and

(ii) the vehicle is carrying passengers or is in service and available to carry passengers, and

(b) a person in an indoor area of a NSW airport, including a passenger waiting area, must wear a fitted face covering at all times when in the area, and

(c) a person on a domestic commercial aircraft that lands at, or takes off from, a NSW airport must wear a fitted face covering at all times when on the aircraft while—

(i) the aircraft is located at a NSW airport, including when the aircraft is landing at, or taking off from, the airport, or

(ii) the aircraft is flying in NSW airspace.

(3) (Repealed)

(4) (Repealed)

(5) Subclause (2) does 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) (Repealed)

(7) Despite subclause (2), 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.

- (7A) Without limiting subclauses (5) and (7), a person may remove a fitted face covering the person is otherwise required by subclause (2)(b) or (c) to wear in the following circumstances—
- (a) the person is a member of the flight crew of an aircraft who is not interacting directly with passengers, including because the person is on an aircraft with no passengers boarded,
 - (b) the person is an airport worker who is not interacting directly with passengers on an aircraft, including because the person is on an aircraft with no passengers boarded.
- (8) The Minister directs that a person who removes the person's fitted face covering under subclause (7) or (7A) 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) (Repealed)
- (c) an order that remakes, replaces or consolidates, whether in whole or in part, an order referred to in paragraph (a).

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.