



New South Wales

Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Order 2020

under the

Public Health Act 2010

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

Dated 9 April 2020.

Minister for Health and Medical Research

Explanatory note

The object of this Order is to deal with the public health risk of COVID-19 and its possible consequences by giving a Ministerial direction about intentionally spitting at or coughing on public officials in a way that is reasonably likely to cause fear about the spread of COVID-19.

Section 10 of the *Public Health Act 2010* creates an offence if an individual fails to comply with a direction with a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 6 months or a fine of up to \$11,000 (or both) plus a further \$5,500 fine each day the offence continues.

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1 Name of Order

This Order is the *Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Order 2020*.

2 Commencement

This Order commences when the *Public Health Amendment (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Regulation 2020* commences.

3 Definitions

In this Order—

health worker means—

- (a) a person employed in the NSW Health Service within the meaning of the *Health Services Act 1997*, or
- (b) a person engaged by the Health Administration Corporation, within the meaning of the *Health Administration Act 1982*, to enable the Corporation to exercise its functions, or
- (c) a person engaged by a public health organisation, within the meaning of the *Health Services Act 1997*, to enable the organisation to exercise its functions, or
- (d) a member of staff of a licensed private health facility within the meaning of the *Private Health Facilities Act 2007*, or
- (e) a registered health practitioner, or
- (f) a person who works in a pharmacy or on other premises at which a health practitioner routinely practises the practitioner's profession, or
- (g) a member of staff of St John Ambulance Australia (NSW), or
- (h) a member of staff of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (NSW Section).

public official means—

- (a) a health worker, or
- (b) a police officer within the meaning of the *Police Act 1990*, or
- (c) another person exercising public functions under a law of New South Wales, or
- (d) an Immigration and Border Protection worker within the meaning of the *Australian Border Force Act 2015* of the Commonwealth, or
- (e) a person employed or otherwise engaged by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

4 Grounds for concluding there is a risk to public health

It is noted that 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 international outbreaks of COVID-19, also known as Novel Coronavirus 2019,
- (b) COVID-19 is a potentially fatal condition and is also highly contagious,
- (c) a number of cases of individuals with COVID-19 have now been confirmed in New South Wales, as well as other Australian jurisdictions.

5 Direction—spitting or coughing on public official

The Minister directs that a person must not intentionally spit at or cough on a public official in a way that would reasonably be likely to cause fear about the spread of COVID-19.