

COVID-19: NSW advice

This factsheet is to provide information relating to COVID-19 legal advice in NSW. If you are seeking information about legal obligations in the ACT, please consult our other COVID-19 factsheet, available on our website.

Powers of the Chief Health Officer

Under section 7 of the *Public Health Act 2010* the NSW Minister for Health has the power to issue orders as the Minister considers necessary to deal with the risks and possible consequences of COVID-19.

The NSW Minister for Health has made several orders that have significantly changed the day-to-day lives of NSW residents.

What happens if I don't comply with a direction?

It is an offence to fail to comply with an order intended to deal with the public health risk of COVID-19. An individual can receive a fine of up to \$11,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment, and additional fines of \$5,500 for each day the offence continues.

I am in quarantine. What does that mean?

If you are in self-isolation, you must not go out in public for 14 days. You can still go out into your garden. If you live in a residential complex and there is an outdoor area, you may go outside, but you should wear a mask to minimise the risk of infecting others. You should not attend work if you are in quarantine. For up-to-date information on when you should self-isolate, see the Australian Government Department of Health [information page](#).

Can I go outside?

From 13th June 2020, the following activities will be permitted in compliance with the 1 person per 4 square metres rule:

- Dining in restaurants, cafes and pubs with a maximum of 50 people (excluding staff);
- Attending fitness, gym, pilates, yoga and dance studio classes of up to 10 people;
- Going to the gym with a maximum of 100 people in the venue;
- Visiting a tattoo or massage parlour with up to 10 clients;
- Visiting a beauty, nail, waxing and tanning salon with a maximum of 10 customers;
- Going to retail stores;
- Participating in outdoor sports and recreational activities of up to 10 people;
- Visiting another household with a maximum of 5 visitors in the household at any one time (inclusive of children);
- Attending or hosting a wedding of up to 20 guests (excluding the couple, photographer, videographer and people conducting the wedding);
- Attending religious gatherings of up to 50 people;
- Attending funerals of up to 50 people.

From 13th June 2020, other venues may open in accordance with the Public Health Orders and the 1 person per 4 square metres rule. These may include caravan and camping grounds, community centres, cultural buildings (such as libraries, galleries and museums), education and childcare facilities, entertainment and amusement centres, hairdressers and national parks. You should be sure to follow each venue's restrictions and practice physical distancing of at least 1.5m from any other person.

Holidays to NSW and within NSW are now permitted.

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Can I invite people over to my house?

You can invite up to 5 visitors to your home at any one time. The five visitors can be from separate households. You do not need a reasonable excuse to invite visitors over anymore - you are allowed to invite visitors for the purposes of socialising.

However, we would advise maintaining physical distancing arrangements where possible – that is, 1.5 metres between all people.

Can I go out in public with people who are not my family?

You can go out in public with 9 other people, inclusive of people who are members of your household. For example, the maximum booking for restaurants and cafes is 10 people. You can only gather with groups of more than 10 people if all people are members of your household. However you should be careful to maintain physical distancing and practice good hygiene.

What does COVID-19 mean for my parenting arrangement?

The expectation of the courts is that parents will continue to comply with existing parenting orders, where possible. Leaving your home to fulfil a parenting arrangement is considered a reasonable excuse for going outside.

If a change in circumstances means you can no longer comply with a specific term of your arrangement e.g. a 'pick-up' arrangement at a school that is now closed, communicate with your ex-partner to find an alternative way of fulfilling the parenting obligations.

Can I visit someone in an aged care facility?

You can still visit a person in an aged care facility with one other person for a period of no longer than 2 hours. You can also only visit once per day.

However, there are several restrictions in place. You cannot visit a person in an aged care facility if:

- You have returned from international travel in the past 14 days;
- You have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- You have a temperature of 37.5°C or the symptoms of an acute respiratory infection e.g. cough, sore throat or shortness of breath;
- You do not have up to date vaccination against influenza;
- You are under 16 years of age.

More information

More information can be found at the Australian Government Department of Health [COVID-19 health alert page](#). For information specific to NSW, information can also be found at the NSW Health [COVID-19 page](#).

If you have any further questions, we recommend you call our Helpline on 1300 654 314. They will be able to provide Legal advice and information, or direct you to the relevant service.