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New South Wales

Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) 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 8 March 2021.

BRAD HAZZARD, MP
Minister for Health and Medical Research

Explanatory note

The object of this Order is to repeal and remake, with minor changes, the *Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Order (No 4) 2020*.

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Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Order 2021

under the

Public Health Act 2010

1 Name of Order

This Order is the *Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Order 2021*.

2 Commencement

This Order commences at the beginning of 12 March 2021.

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 registered 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.

Note. The *Public Health Act 2010* and the *Interpretation Act 1987* contain definitions and other provisions that affect the interpretation and application of this Order.

4 Grounds for concluding there is a risk to public health

It is noted the basis for concluding 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) there is an ongoing risk of continuing introduction of COVID-19 into the New South Wales community.

5 Direction—spitting or coughing on public official or other worker

- (1) The Minister directs that a person must not intentionally spit at or cough on any of the following persons in a way that would reasonably be likely to cause fear about the spread of COVID-19—
 - (a) a public official,
 - (b) another worker while the worker is—
 - (i) at the worker’s place of work, or
 - (ii) travelling to or from the place of work.
- (2) If the worker’s place of work is the worker’s residential premises, the place of work does not, for the purposes of this clause, include a part of the premises used solely for residential purposes.
- (3) Without limiting subclause (1)(b), a worker includes the following—
 - (a) a retail worker,
 - (b) a person who works at an airport,
 - (c) a person who works for an electricity, gas, water or other utility company,
 - (d) a person who works in the transport industry or a transport-related industry,
 - (e) a member of the Australian Defence Force.

Example. Examples of public officials and workers include hospital staff, bus drivers, train drivers, ferry deckhands, taxi drivers, ride share drivers, food delivery workers, security guards, electricity, gas and water meter readers and postal delivery staff, including persons working for an entity under a contract, directly or indirectly, on behalf of the NSW Government.

6 Repeal and savings

- (1) The *Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Order (No 4) 2020* is repealed.
- (2) Any act, matter or thing that, immediately before the repeal of the *Public Health (COVID-19 Spitting and Coughing) Order (No 4) 2020*, had effect under that Order continues to have effect under this Order.