

# FACTSHEET

## 2021 COVID-19 LOCKDOWN RULES IN INNER SYDNEY

### FACE MASKS

**COVID-19 IS A LIFE-THREATENING DISEASE THAT IS HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS.  
THERE ARE NEW LAWS TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY.**

This factsheet is for Inner Sydney only. The rules can change. This factsheet is current as at 14 September 2021.  
If you are worried check NSW health website for up to date info:

[www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19)

There are extra rules for South West and Western Sydney (hotspot zones). Check the website.



**You must always carry a mask with you when you are outside your home or temporary accommodation.**



**IF YOU ARE 13 YEARS OR OLDER, YOU MUST WEAR A MASK OVER YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH IN A NUMBER OF SITUATIONS INCLUDING WHEN YOU ARE:**

- Outside your place of residence (indoor or outdoor)
- Inside in shared areas in your accommodation and temporary accommodation like a lobby
- On public transport, including at a station or bus stop



#### **WHAT IF I HAVE A CONDITION THAT MEANS I CAN'T WEAR A MASK?**

If you have a physical condition, disability or mental health condition which makes it unsuitable for you to wear a mask, you must carry both:

- Evidence of your name and address (ID or licence) and
- Evidence of your condition, such as a letter from your GP

You must show these documents to a police officer if they ask for them.



#### **WHEN AM I ALLOWED TO TAKE MY MASK OFF?**

You can take off your mask for limited reasons, including:

- If you are eating or drinking
- Doing physical exercise
- If you are talking to someone who is deaf or finds it difficult to hear
- If you are asked by police to remove it to show your identity
- In an emergency
- If you are in a prison
- If you are a guest in a hotel, motel or other accommodation facility and you are in your own room
- If you are alone in a car or with someone from your household, or with your chosen person

# POLICE OFFICERS AND MASKS

## WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR NOT WEARING OR CARRYING A MASK?

If you are **over 18**, police can give you an on-the-spot fine of \$500 for failing to comply with a direction to wear or carry a mask. If you are **16-17** years old, the fine is **\$80**. If you are **13-15** years old, the fine is **\$40**.

Police can also give you an on-the-spot fine of \$1000 for breaching a public health order.

**The maximum penalty for breaching a public health order is a fine of \$11,000 or 6 months jail or both.**

Police can also arrest you for breaching a public health order.

## DO I HAVE TO GIVE POLICE MY NAME AND ADDRESS?

- Police can require you to give them your name and address in a range of situations, including if they suspect you have breached a public health order. Failure to give your name and address can result in a maximum penalty of **\$5500**
- Giving false and misleading information has a maximum penalty **\$11,000** or **6 months** imprisonment
- If you are away from home for exercise, recreation or shopping, you must carry something with proof of your name and address, and show it to police if asked. You could be fined **\$1000** if you do not comply with this.



You also must give police your name and address if they are giving you a formal move-on direction.



## WHAT IF I AM FINED OR ARRESTED?

If you are fined or arrested for breaching a public health order, please contact **HPLS** or **ICLC** (or **The Shopfront** if you are 25 or under) as soon as possible using the details at the bottom of this sheet.



## ONCE I HAVE GIVEN POLICE MY NAME & ADDRESS, DO I HAVE TO ANSWER MORE QUESTIONS?

No. Once you have given your name and address you do not have to answer any further questions.

It is a good idea to tell police the reason you are not wearing a mask, so that you can avoid a fine. For example, if you have a medical exemption not to wear a mask.

## CAN POLICE TELL ME TO MOVE ON?

The public health order does not give police the power to give you a 'move on direction', but they can tell you to go home. Police can give you a move on direction if they believe on reasonable grounds that:

- You are obstructing a person or traffic,
- You are behaving in a way that is considered to be harassment, intimidation or causing fear to other people.
- You are intoxicated and police believe you are likely to cause injury or damage or you are being disorderly
- You are in a public place to obtain or supply drugs





### Can police stop and search me?

The public health order does not give the police extra powers to search a person.

The police can only stop and search you without a warrant if they reasonably suspect you are carrying something such as: **stolen goods; drugs; a weapon; something that you have used or intend to use to commit an offence**

If you think police should not have searched you, get legal advice.



### There are serious penalties for spitting and coughing

A person who deliberately spits or coughs on a frontline worker could be given an **on-the-spot fine of \$5000**



### You can get an on-the-spot \$5000 fine if you:

1. lie to a contact tracer
2. do not self isolate after you are diagnosed with COVID-19
3. are a 'close contact' of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and you do not self-isolate

## WHERE CAN I GET LEGAL HELP?

If you get in trouble with the police, or if you get a fine, you should get legal advice as soon as possible. You can contact the **Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS)**:

**8898 6545** or email [homelessproject@piac.asn.au](mailto:homelessproject@piac.asn.au)

Our lawyers are also at:

- Canice's Kitchen on Monday mornings 10-11:30am
- Martin Place near Footpath library on Tuesday nights 7-8pm

You can contact **Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC)**:

**0466 724 979** or email [iclc@iclc.org.au](mailto:iclc@iclc.org.au). ICLC is open Monday-Friday.

If you are aged **25 or under**, you can contact **The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre** on **9322 4808** or [shopfront@theshopfront.org](mailto:shopfront@theshopfront.org)

## WHERE CAN I GET VACCINATED?

Pop up **vaccination hubs** are now at:

- Ozanam Learning Centre on Thursday mornings
- Northcott Community Centre, Belvoir St, Surry Hills Every Monday 10am – 2pm
- Lexington Hub, (Old Community Place) Maroubra, Every Friday 10am-2pm

Where Can I Get **Tested**?

KRC runs a testing clinic that moves around. Give them a ring to find out where they are on a day when you need a test 9360 2766.