

ADVISORY NOTICE

NEW SOUTH WALES 21 JULY 2021



THE REAL MEDIA COLLECTIVE ADVISORY GUIDE – NEW SOUTH WALES 19 JULY 2021

NSW COVID worker restrictions – update 19 JULY 2021

The last 48 hours in Sydney and the implemented worker restrictions has caused some confusion for businesses and employees. **The stated restrictions made by NSW government on Saturday was varied on Sunday and continues to be amended.** We provide the following details as they are known at this time (Monday, 19 July 2021).

OUR INDUSTRY

Based on a review of current NSW government directions:

- > Essentially our industry remains open for onsite work across the Greater Sydney region. This includes if a business operates from within the Fairfield, Liverpool or Canterbury-Bankstown local government areas (3 LGA's).
- > Workers who **reside outside** of those stated 3 LGA's and who are required for onsite work can present themselves to their workplaces. This includes if that workplace is within one of the stated 3 LGA's.
- > Workers who **reside within** one of the stated 3 LGA's cannot leave their specific LGA for work unless they are an 'authorised worker'. Those authorised workers who can continue to attend for work are required to undertake a COVID surveillance test every three days/72 hours.

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

There has been incoming queries relating to the 3 LGAs Surveillance Testing requirements. The NSW Government communications conflict with Premier, Deputy Premier and Chief Health Officer on-record statements and advice at this time. Furthermore, the website communications from the PHO is difficult to determine with absolute accuracy, lacks adequate specificity, and can be open to interpretation. To that end, and in the abundance of caution, TRMC's advice at this time recommends any Authorised Worker from the 3 LGAs identified (Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown and Liverpool) complete testing every three (3) days. Given the current state of lockdown in Greater Sydney, and so as to ensure avoiding potential penalties for breaching a Public Health Order by either a member or an employee, we take the conservative view that such a requirement could be considered a fair, lawful and reasonable direction to an impacted employee.

AUTHORISED WORKERS

A review of the current list of 'authorised workers' and the related exempted activities states which of those impacted employees who reside in the stated 3 LGA's can continue to leave their LGA's to attend for onsite work.

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Suite 6, 151 Barkly Avenue, Richmond VIC 3121

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The current list of those sector activities that are relevant to our industry are as follows:

Manufacturing

- > food and fibre processing and manufacturing
- > production and manufacturing of food, beverages, groceries and sanitary products.
- > food and beverage packaging (packaging/label print relating to food and beverage)
- > medical equipment, consumables and personal protective equipment (label/packaging/form/PPR print work to support these sectors)

Transport postal and warehousing

- > freight, logistics, postal, courier or delivery services (including food logistics, delivery and grocery fulfilment)
- > distribution of food, groceries and sanitary products for sale by supermarkets, grocery shops or other shops that predominantly sell food or drinks
- > warehousing
- > road transport

Information media and telecommunications

- > telecommunications services, internet service providers, web search portals and data processing services
- > journalism and media services for news and other critical public communications purposes (government notices, COVID notices, signage that is critical to public communications such as in-store decals)

A complete list of authorised workers can be accessed here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/authorised-workers>

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Currently, and unless the list of authorised workers receives greater clarity, the conservative approach is that if you have employees who reside in those stated 3 LGA's who would need to leave their LGA to attend work, unless your production activities clearly fall within one of those listed exempt activities, those impacted employees would be restricted from attending the workplace.

We are encouraging your business to offer any accrued leave entitlements to be taken as well as providing advice to those impacted workers to make application for individual support under the COVID Disaster Payment. We have drafted communication suggestions for your organisations to consider:

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Unfortunately, as a result of the newly implemented public health order in NSW (17 July 2021) and given you reside in the stated Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown or Liverpool Local Government Area and are not an Authorised Worker you will be unable to attend work from 11.59pm, Saturday, 17 July 2021 until 11.59pm, Friday, 30 July 2021.

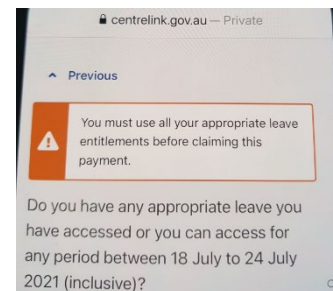
As a result of this situation the company will be unable to pay your normal wage. However, under these circumstances you are likely to be eligible for the Commonwealth COVID-19 Disaster Payment and recommend you contact [Services Australia](#) to make that application.

The company will also consider any application from an employee for annual leave or long service leave (if eligible) for this period.

SPECIFIC QUERIES RECEIVED ACROSS THE PAST 48 HOURS

The Collective has received queries across the following, please note:

- > **Annual Leave Centrelink Notice** – When employees have been applying for the individual payment there is an alert notice on the Centrelink site that states ‘You must use all your appropriate leave entitlements’. Please note Annual Leave is not included in the definition of ‘appropriate leave’. Refer to the government definition in this regard: [COVID Disaster Payment / Appropriate Leave](#)
- > **Greater Sydney workers** – If your staff reside in the Greater Sydney area they are not impacted by the recent announcements regardless of where your site is located.
- > **Travelling for on-site work** – Some of our member organisations need to attend businesses to perform servicing requirements. If your staff performing those tasks resides in Greater Sydney they can continue to attend to those service requirements. We would encourage businesses to limit entering and exiting the 3 LGA sites on high alert and limit to emergency service and on-site requirements where possible.
- > **Signage and Install** – Signage and Install workers who reside in the 3 LGAs on high alert are not Authorised Workers at this time. Across Greater Sydney, some signage workers are limited under ‘Construction’ Awards due to the nature of signage installation and this should be reviewed. However, light installation, which covers the majority of our members are within the Signage and GAPP Awards which are not restricted under these current orders.



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- > **Western Australia** – There has been some mis-reporting across the print industry in Western Australia. It is our understanding that the reported company that was shutdown did not have a COVID Safe Plan in place, was not adhering to social distancing nor using PPE. Police attended the site and deemed it in breach of the Public Health Order and the site was shutdown. All sites operating must have an updated COVID Safe Plan in place which requires regular communication to staff and regular monitoring that the Plan is implemented and operational.
- > **Will I be arrested if I go to work?** – Should staff be stopped on their way to work, they need to advise the authorities that they are an Authorised Worker and attending their workplace. Workers will not be arrested for attending work as an Authorised Worker, at the very worst case an individual may be fined, however if this occurs the Collective can assist in this regard. Noting that when commuting all Workers must be comply with Public Health Orders across mask-wearing, social distancing and other requirements.

WHAT THE REAL MEDIA COLLECTIVE IS DOING

In a bid to overcome the current confusion the Collective has been advising the NSW government over the weekend and demanding both greater clarity on the list of 'authorised workers' and that given the interrelated nature of our industry and that we are an essential service supply chain provider, all sectors of our industry be included in that 'authorised worker' list for those residents of the stated 3 LGA's.

As per communications issued to New South Wales members over the weekend, we will continue to update as we are advised. This remains a fluid communication as the government continues to develop the Public Health Orders and its communication.

OTHER STATES

Victoria remains in Lockdown with our industry operating as an essential service supply chain provider. Lockdown is being extended beyond tomorrow night, we await advice across the extension which is due tomorrow.

Border restrictions prohibiting Victoria and New South Wales travel into South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia are in place.

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CONTACT

Members with any related queries can contact The Real Media Collective:

Charles Watson
GM – IR, Policy and Governance
Email charles@thermc.com.au
Mobile 0428 568 032

Kellie Northwood
Chief Health Officer
Email kellie@thermc.com.au
Mobile 0424 188 745

NOTE: The information in this Advisory is general and was correct at the time of writing. However, this information can change quickly and further travel related restrictions may be imposed. TRMC recommends members ensure any related decisions are made on current and up to date information. The Real Media Collective, 14th July, 2021.