

LOCKDOWN ADVISORY NOTICE

16 AUGUST 2021



THE REAL MEDIA COLLECTIVE ADVISORY GUIDE – updated 16 AUGUST 2021

NEW SOUTH WALES

The escalating NSW Police powers and case numbers across Sydney and the implemented worker restrictions has caused some confusion for businesses and employees. We provide the following details as they are known at this time (Monday, 16 August 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 Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, Parramatta, Strathfield, and some suburbs of Penrith. Alternatively referenced as Local Government Areas of Concern.
- > Workers who **reside outside** of those stated Local Government Areas of Concern and who are required for onsite work can present themselves to their workplaces. This includes if that workplace is within one of the stated Local Government Areas of Concern.
- > Workers who **reside within** one of the stated Local Government Areas of Concerns cannot leave their specific LGA for work unless they are an 'authorised worker'. Those authorised workers from Canterbury-Bankstown local government area who can continue to attend for work are required to undertake a COVID surveillance test every three days/72 hours.

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 LGA's can continue to leave their LGA's to attend for onsite work.

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)

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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 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:

Unfortunately, as a result of the ongoing public health order in NSW (17 July 2021) and given you reside in a stated Local Government Area of Concern and are not an Authorised Worker you will be unable to attend work.

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.

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VICTORIA

The Victorian Government has announced today, Monday 16 August 2021, the lockdown in metropolitan Melbourne will be extended by two weeks until 11:59pm, Thursday 2 September 2021.

Various additional restrictions are also being reintroduced across personal interventions and these will be published overnight via the government sites. The best link for personal interventions is: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live> . More pertinent to industry are the following:

Curfew reinstated

The 9.00pm to 5.00am curfew experienced last year in Melbourne is being reintroduced. A person is not permitted to leave their home except for the limited reasons, which includes authorised work between those hours.

Permitted worker permits

The permitted worker permit scheme, is being reintroduced. Authorised workers will be required to carry permits when travelling to and from working from 11:59pm on Tuesday 17 August. The permits will need to be certified by an employer.

TRMC currently believe the incoming permits will be similar to those used last year. However, at the time of writing the updated permits were not yet available from the Victorian government. TRMC will provide them to members as soon as they become available.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The current lockdown conditions in the ACT have been extended for a further two weeks, until 2 September 2021. Our industry across publishing, media, postal and print as an essential supply chain provider remain open for work with adherence to strict COVID Safe Plans and protocols.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The NT government announced that, from 12.01pm today, Greater Darwin and Katherine are entering into a 72-hour lockdown. If producing for an essential service or industry as listed, printing is deemed eligible as an essential service supply chain provider.

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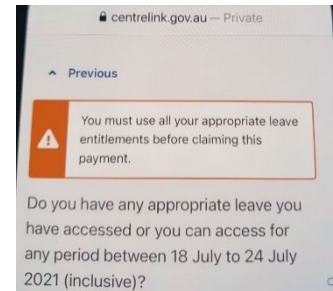
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SPECIFIC QUERIES RECEIVED FROM INDUSTRY

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, but not within one of the LGA’s deemed ‘areas of concern’, 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 LGA sites on high alert and limit to emergency service and on-site requirements where possible.
- > **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.



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CONTACT

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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.