



WORKING THROUGH COVID-19

RESTRICTIONS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

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HOW TO USE THIS INFORMATION

The aim of this guide is to help with your awareness of Government guidelines, rules and public health orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. New public health orders are being made every few weeks to respond to the pandemic as it continues. We recommend you review official sources of information to ensure the information you are accessing is up to date. There are links to official sources of information in this guide.



If you have any questions in relation to this document or the issues raised, please contact our **Workplace Relations team** on **02 9439 8822** or email **workplace@amansw.com.au**

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RESTRICTIONS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

Governments are taking steps to manage restrictions across Australia according to levels of community transmission. There is a steady stream of information about what you can and can't do. This information is being updated regularly as restrictions are relaxed and tightened. This information is important because it will determine how and perhaps when you and your practice will return to work or return to working from home. We have prepared this guide to help you with your awareness of Government guidelines, rules and public health orders and the consequences of non-compliance, so you can focus on your business and work through COVID-19 with more certainty.

Information on COVID-19 is changing constantly. Where can I get up to date information?

You should stay up to date with information and advice about the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. Official sources of information include the **Department of Health, NSW Government and NSW Health**. You may also wish to raise an enquiry with the AMA (NSW) **Workplace Relations Team**.

What is the Federal Government's three step plan?

National Cabinet, composed of the Prime Minister and the premiers and chief ministers of the States and Territories, has agreed a three-step plan to gradually remove baseline restrictions. This plan provides a pathway for States and Territories to move between the steps at different times, in line with their current local conditions. It is a guide only and is subject to review. The Federal Government has left enforcement to the States and Territories. Information on the three-step plan is available from the **Department of Health**.

What are the NSW Government rules?

The NSW Government has a set of rules about what you can and can't do in NSW. These rules are based on NSW public health orders and relate to matters including gatherings and movement, self isolation and quarantine. They are subject to change as the public health orders are amended to ease restrictions in NSW. Information on the rules in NSW is available from the **NSW Government**.

What are NSW public health orders?

The Minister for Health and Medical Research has made a number of public health orders in NSW to deal with the public health risk of COVID-19 and its possible consequences. These orders are made under the Public Health Act 2010 (NSW). Information on NSW public health orders is available from **NSW Health**.

What happens if you breach a NSW public health order?

It is an offence to breach a NSW public health order. For an individual, the maximum penalty is \$11,000, or imprisonment for 6 months, or both and a further \$5,500 penalty may apply for each day the offence continues. For a corporation, the maximum penalty is \$55,000 and a further \$27,500 penalty may apply for each day the offence continues. The police are also empowered to issue penalty notices (on the spot fines) of \$1,000 to individuals and \$5,000 to corporations.

The information in this document is of a general nature only and does not constitute legal advice. The application and impact of laws can vary widely based on the specific facts involved. Given the changing nature of the situation, laws, rules and regulations, and the inherent hazards of electronic communication, there may be delays, omissions or inaccuracies with the information in this document.

We have made every attempt to ensure that the information and links contained in this document are accurate as at the date of drafting. The examples given are illustrative and not exhaustive. The links provided connect to third party websites over which AMA (NSW) has no control.

AMA (NSW) will not be liable for any decision made or action taken in reliance on the information in this document. It is for general guidance only and should not be used as a substitute for obtaining specific assistance or advice.



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