

FACTSHEET

2021 COVID-19 LOCKDOWN RULES IN INNER SYDNEY

STAY AT HOME ORDER

**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

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



You must stay at home or in your Temporary Accommodation unless you have a **“reasonable excuse.”**

IF YOU ARE LIVING IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION, YOU MUST FOLLOW THE STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS.

Police can give you an **on-the-spot fine of \$1000** if you do not follow the stay-at-home orders. You must return to your place of residence if requested by police.

The **maximum penalty** is a fine of **\$11,000** or 6 months in jail or both.



If you are **sleeping rough** and you are fined by police for not staying at home, please contact ICLC or HPLS (see below).

You can leave your home or temporary accommodation for limited reasons. When you leave your home or temporary accommodation you must take something showing your address to give police if they ask you for it. This could be a driver's licence, photo ID card or passport. You must also carry a mask.



One of the reasons you can leave your home is to get your methadone dose or to access the Medically Supervised Injecting Room



WHEN CAN I LEAVE MY HOME OR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION?

- To get medical care - this includes attending for Methadone dosing, getting mental health care, seeing a doctor and going to the Medically Supervised Injecting Room
- To buy food and other essential goods for yourself and your pets. Only one person per house can do this each day and you need to stay within your Local Government Area (LGA) or within 5 kms of where you live
- To access a food service including food vans or homeless services eg. to go to footpath library
- To get a COVID-19 vaccine
- To get a COVID-19 test
- To care for someone
- To go to essential services such as Centrelink, domestic violence services, mental health services
- To comply with a legal obligation, e.g go to court or report on bail
- For exercise or “outdoor recreation”, such as sitting for relaxation, eating, drinking or reading outdoors. You need to stay within your LGA or 5km from where you live
- For compassionate reasons

You can have a **support worker** come into your home to give you care.

You can leave your house if you are experiencing **Domestic Violence**.

If you **live alone**, you can choose one other person to visit you. (see below).

You cannot drive with a **passenger in your car** unless they live with you, or they are your 'nominated visitor' (see below).

IF YOU LIVE ALONE, YOU CAN CHOOSE ONE OTHER PERSON TO VISIT YOU (THIS IS YOUR 'NOMINATED VISITOR').

You can have them at your place or go to their place if they live alone as well.
This can only be one person, not different people on different days.
This person can live in greater Sydney but they can't live in the hotspot zones.

CAN I HAVE PEOPLE TO MY HOUSE? NO. EXCEPT IF:

They are your carer or support worker or;
You live alone and you have chosen one person to visit you: that person can come to your house.
This is your 'nominated visitor'

WHAT ABOUT SEX WORK?

Whether you can do sex work might depend on where you live and the kind of work you are doing. For more information contact the **Sex Worker Outreach Project** on **9184 9466** or go to **swop.org.au** or contact ICLC.



CAN I MEET UP WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE?

You can meet up with one person to do exercise only. Police can give you an on-the-spot fine of **\$3000** if you meet up with more than one person outside.

If you have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination, you are allowed to participate in outdoor gatherings of **five people** within your LGA or **within 5km** of your home. The other four people must also be vaccinated. You should **carry your vaccination certificate** with you, which you can get from Medicare, your vaccination provider, or the Australian Immunisation Register (**1800 653 809**).

POLICE OFFICERS

Police can give **on-the-spot fines** for breaching a public health order. This includes not wearing a mask when required. Police can **arrest you** for not following a public health direction.

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.



ONCE I HAVE GIVEN POLICE MY NAME AND 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 at home, so that you can avoid a fine. For example, you should tell police if you are sleeping rough and do not have an address, or if you are outside your home for one of the reasons listed above e.g. I am attending Footpath Library to access support services.



Can police tell me to move on? The stay-at-home order does not give police the power to give you a 'move on direction', but they can tell you to go home. The 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.



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

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. 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

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.

WHERE CAN I GET VACCINATED?