

Corona Virus (COVID- 19) Police Activity in Maintaining the law and Ministerial Directions

What you need to know

Police are there to support the safety and wellbeing of the whole community at this time of the Corona Virus pandemic. Any breaches will be considered serious and responded to and acted upon by police.

There are several new rules that apply.

1. Public Health Order

- (a) You need to comply with social distancing requirements. The Minister has ordered that there must be 4 square meters of space for when people are inside a non-residential building. Other social distancing measures include staying at least 1.5 meters away from other persons and not engaging in public greetings such as shake hands, hug or kiss.
- (b) You cannot be part of a mass gathering.
- (c) If you go out it can be with only one other person (i.e. 2 people). There are some exceptions, such as gatherings of 5 people for weddings and 10 people for funerals.
- (d) As of 31st March, you are only to leave home for necessary reasons –
 - a. To go to work if necessary
 - b. To buy food or medical supplies
 - c. To go to the doctors or to a medical appointment or compassionate visit
 - d. To go out to exercise (alone or with one other person)
- (e) Taking a holiday in a regional area is not an excuse to leave your house. Any accommodation provider that accepts travellers in violation with the order commits an offence.
- (f) You cannot enter places where people gather socially – such as pubs and clubs
- (g) You cannot go and sit in to eat at restaurants, cafes and other food and drink venues. It is take away food and drink only.
- (h) You can no longer go gyms, health studios, pools, indoor sports venues, outdoor skate parks, playgrounds or cinemas, theatres concert halls.
- (i) You cannot go to Churches, Mosques or other places of worship
- (j) Lastly, it is important to practice good personal hygiene – washing hands, coughing into the elbow or into a tissue and keeping away from anyone exhibiting flu like symptoms apply for ALL persons.

2. Quarantine Order

- a. If you have come into Australia from overseas you must quarantine – this means you must not come into contact with others. Police Commissioner is overseeing the placement of all arrivals into quarantine within hotels.
- b. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 - you also must self-isolate – stay at home with no direct contact with others – for a minimum of 14 days and in

consultation with your doctor. However, you can be taken to hospital by an ambulance if your condition deteriorates.

What Police have the power to Do?

1. NSW police will be proactively conducting patrols in every Police Command and District to make sure that people are social distancing.

2. Police have the power to issue a penalty infringement notice, also known as an on the spot fine, if a person is not doing what the Ministerial directions require. This is a fine of \$1,000.00 for individuals or \$5,000.00 for businesses.

This means that if someone is ordered to self-isolate and they do not, or if people are not complying with social distancing rules, police WILL issue them with a fine.

Be aware that police are not restricted to handing out fines. A person may instead be issued with a Court Attendance Notice with a penalty of up to \$11,000.00 or six months in prison

3. Community reporting of breaches of the public health orders

NSW Police Force has also asked for community assistance. You can report breaches of the public health orders through CRIMESTOPPERS on www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au

Please use this responsibly.