



**REPUBLIC OF NAURU
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY
EXTRAORDINARY**

No. 27

6th February, 2023

Nauru

G.N.No. 141/2023

National Disaster Risk Management Act 2016

**National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Community Transmission)
and (Public Health Safety) Regulations 2020**

SL No. 2 of 2023

[Regulation 23]

DIRECTIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PURSUANT to the powers vested in me under Regulation 23, **I, Russ Kun, M.P.**, Minister for National Emergency Services, hereby issue these **DIRECTIONS** for the purpose of easing the previous restrictions put in place to manage and minimise the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), commencing on 3 February 2023:

1. Physical distance and use of face masks

- (1) Unless required by these directions, the use of face masks in public places is voluntary.
- (2) A person shall wear a face mask in priority places.
- (3) A priority place includes a hospital, a health care facility or a long-term care facility including a household with members of high priority groups.
- (4) A high priority group includes:
 - (a) unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated persons;
 - (b) persons aged 50 years and older;
 - (c) persons with multiple medical conditions;
 - (d) persons who smoke cigarettes;
 - (e) persons with immuno-compromising diseases or taking immuno-suppressive medication;
 - (f) pregnant women; or
 - (g) persons who are under medical directions.
- (5) A person in the high priority group is encouraged to wear a face mask:
 - (a) in a public place; and

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(b) in places where maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 metres is impossible.

(6) The maintenance of 1.5 metres physical distance is encouraged in a place where the crowd consists of persons who are not constantly in contact with one another and where physical distancing is impossible, such persons are encouraged to wear face masks.

2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and home isolation

A person who exhibits Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms shall:

(a) self-administer a Rapid Antigen Test;

(b) where a Rapid Antigen Test produces a positive result:

(i) call the phone number 192 to report such symptoms and the result of the test;

(ii) self-isolate at his or her place of residence for 10 days; and

(iii) not be out in the public including for the purposes of work or school in the case of students or teachers;

(c) continue to monitor his or her symptoms even where a Rapid Antigen Test produces a negative result; and

(d) seek urgent medical attention if symptoms are critical.

3. Close contact of COVID case

(1) A person who is a confirmed COVID case or a COVID contact, shall self-quarantine at his or her place of residence for 5 days.

(2) If the person under clause (1) is not tested by an official of the National Coronavirus Taskforce or Department of Health and Medical Services, he or she shall self-administer a Rapid Antigen Test on the first, third and fifth day following contact and while he or she is in self-quarantine.

(3) Where any of the test results is positive, the person shall comply with the requirement of direction 2(b).

(4) Where all the test results are negative, the person shall:

(a) end self-quarantine after day 5; and

(b) wear a face mask when he or she is out in public for a further 5 consecutive days.

(5) A COVID contact who develops Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms within 5 days after ending self-quarantine shall undergo a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test at the Republic of Nauru Hospital or Naoero Public Health Centre.

(6) For the purposes of this direction, '**COVID contact**' has the same meaning given to '**potentially infectious person**' under the *National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Community Transmission) and (Public Health Safety) Regulations 2020* and includes a person:

(a) living in the same house with a person infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19);

(b) having direct physical contact with a person infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19);

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- (c) standing or sitting within 1-metre for 15 minutes or more, from a person infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19); or
- (d) not using personal protective equipment whilst exposed to a person infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19).

4. Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination

- (1) A person shall strictly comply with the requirements of vaccination as may be directed from time to time by the Secretary for Health and Medical Services.
- (2) A person who is exempted from receiving the Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is not required to comply with clause (1), but shall keep and maintain the records of any exemption by a health practitioner under Regulation 6(a) of the *National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Vaccination) Regulations 2021*.

5. Hygiene

- (1) A person is encouraged to maintain regular hygiene by constantly sanitising or washing with soap his or her hands.
- (2) A person shall cover his or her mouth with a tissue, handkerchief or his or her elbow when coughing.

6. Education

- (1) A teacher or support worker shall before he or she commences work be fully vaccinated.
- (2) A student shall, before attending school, tertiary institution or training facility:
 - (a) be fully vaccinated;
 - (b) have had the first dose of the Coronavirus (COVID) vaccine and is awaiting the second dose; or
 - (c) had contracted and recovered from Coronavirus (COVID-19) and is awaiting the first dose of the vaccine.
- (3) A student, teacher or support worker of a school, tertiary institution or training facility shall be subject to random testing by the National Coronavirus Taskforce.
- (4) Clauses (1) and (2) do not apply to a person who has obtained an exemption from a health practitioner under Regulation 6(a) of the *National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Vaccination) Regulations 2021*.

7. Workplaces

- (1) An employee shall be fully vaccinated before he or she attends to his or her employment or place of work.
- (2) The employer shall ensure that his or her employees are fully vaccinated.
- (3) Clause (1) does not apply to a person who has obtained an exemption from a health practitioner under Regulation 6(a) of the *National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Vaccination) Regulations 2021*.

8. Use of face masks in business premises

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- (1) A manager or employer of a business, as a condition of entry to a business or employment premises, may require any person or an employee to:
 - (a) wear a face mask;
 - (b) maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres; or
 - (c) use hand sanitiser at an entry or exit point,
- (2) A manager or employer shall establish and implement measures that protect a person in a high priority group.
- (3) A manager or employer shall ensure to regularly clean and sanitise frequently contacted or touched things or places by more than one person, such as, but not limited to surfaces, objects, machines, reception desks, doors and door-knobs or handles.

9. Churches

- (1) A person in charge of a place where a church service is conducted may require a person to wear face masks, maintain physical distance of 1.5 metres or use of hand sanitiser at an entry or exit point as a condition of entry to such premises or place.
- (2) A person in charge of a place where a church service is conducted may establish and implement measures that protect a person in a high priority group.
- (3) A person in charge of a place where a church service is conducted shall ensure to regularly clean and sanitise frequently contacted or touched things or places by more than one person, such as, but not limited to surfaces, objects, machines, reception desks, doors and door-knobs or handles.
- (4) The use of open air and well-ventilated venues are encouraged where possible.

10. Social Gatherings

A person in charge of a social gathering event shall ensure to implement measures that protect a person in a high priority group.

11. Sports

- (1) A sports federation, association or organisation is encouraged to require participants of the relevant sport to be fully vaccinated against Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- (2) Clause (1) does not apply to a person who has obtained an exemption from a health practitioner under Regulation 6(a) of the *National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Vaccination) Regulations 2021*.

12. Travel

- (1) Where a person tests positive with Coronavirus (COVID-19), he or she is prohibited from travelling to and from Nauru until 10 days after he or she tested positive with Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- (2) A person travelling to and from Nauru shall produce proof of being fully vaccinated against Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- (3) A person who travels to Nauru by vessel shall:

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- (a) where the person intends to disembark the vessel, undertake a Rapid Antigen Test upon arrival; and
 - (b) where the person does not intend to disembark the vessel, undertake a PCR test upon arrival and if the test result is positive, he or she shall comply with any directive given by the National Coronavirus Taskforce or Naoero Public Health Centre.
- (4) A person who travels to Nauru by aircraft shall undertake a PCR test at the Republic of Nauru Hospital or Naoero Public Health Centre within 24 hours after arrival.
- (5) Clause (2) does not apply to a person who has obtained an exemption from a health practitioner under Regulation 6(a) of the *National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Vaccination) Regulations 2021* or from the Secretary for Health and Medical Services under Regulation 6A of the *National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Vaccination) Regulations 2021*, as the case may be.

13. Offence

A person who fails to comply with these Directions commits a strict liability offence under Regulation 25(1)(h) of the *National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Community Transmission) and (Public Health Safety) Regulations 2020* and is liable to a fixed penalty of \$1,000 and in default of payment, shall also be liable for other penalties and fines or imprisonment.

14. Revocation

The *Directions for Public Health and Public Safety*, SL No. 29 of 2022, notified in the Gazette on 27th September 2022 is revoked.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2023.

HON. RUSS KUN, M.P
MINISTER FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES