



GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
FOR AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, INTERNAL AFFAIRS & PARLIAMENTARY
SERVICES**

P O Box 26, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; Telephone: (682) 29 030 E-mail: rose.brown@cookislands.gov.ck

MINISTERIAL ORDER

Section 8 of the COVID-19 ACT 2020

Dated: 25 January 2022

Definitions

1. In this order, unless the context otherwise requires,—

indoor space means an area, room or premises that is, or are, substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls, or any part of the roof or walls, are permanent or temporary, or open or closed.

2. Any term or expression that is defined in the Act or regulations and used, but not defined, in these regulations, has the same meaning as in the Act or regulations.

Relationship with COVID-19 (Public Health Measures) Regulations 2021

3. This Ministerial order prevails over the COVID-19 (Public Health Measures) Regulations 2021 (the "Regulations") to the extent that there is any inconsistency between this order and the Regulations, otherwise the public health measures provided for in this order are supplementary to those in the Regulations.

Face Coverings

4. Every person must wear a face covering while in any indoor space, other than the person's place of residence; except—
- (a) if the person is under the age of 6 years; or
 - (b) if the person has a physical or mental illness or condition or disability that makes wearing a face covering unsuitable; or
 - (c) when the person is taking medicine; or



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- (d) when the person is eating or drinking; or
 - (e) when the person is in a defined or an enclosed space that is separate from the passenger area of a vehicle this is in use as part of a public transport service; or
 - (f) when the person is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication; or
 - (g) when asked to remove the face covering to ascertain the person's identity; or
 - (h) if wearing a face covering is not safe in all of the circumstances; or
 - (i) when in an emergency; or
 - (j) when removal of, or not wearing, the face covering is otherwise required or authorised by law.
 - (k) when the person is performing as an entertainer; or
 - (l) when the person is presenting to an audience, for example—
 - a. presiding over or assisting in leading a faith based gathering; or
 - b. presenting at a university lecture.
5. Despite clause 4, face coverings are not required to be worn—
- (a) at a school premises where a person is under 18 years old and a student of the school;
or
 - (b) by a customer at an indoor food or drink business or service when the customer is seated at his or her table.

Indoor and Outdoor Events and Gatherings

6. All organised or spontaneous indoor and outdoor events and gatherings whether in a private or public setting, are restricted to a maximum of 100 people excluding staff, unless an exemption has been obtained from the Secretary of Health (or delegate).
7. The events and gatherings restricted under clause 6 include, but are not limited to,—
- (a) parties; and
 - (b) markets; and



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- (c) fundraisers; and
- (d) church events and gatherings; and
- (e) team sports training and games; and
- (f) sporting events; and
- (g) funerals; and
- (h) weddings; and
- (i) live shows; and
- (j) cinema screenings; and
- (k) family land meetings.

Bars, Nightclubs, Restaurants and Cafes

8. All bars, nightclubs, restaurants and cafes are restricted to a maximum of 100 people at any one time excluding staff.

This order comes into force at 11:59pm on Wednesday 26 January 2022.

This order will remain in force until the close of 20 April 2022.



Hon. Vainetutai Rose Toki Brown

Minister of Health