

SECRETARY OF HEALTH DIRECTION

Regulation 7 of the Ministry of Health (COVID-19) Regulations 2022

Dated: 11 August 2022

This Direction comes into force at 12:00am on 12 August 2022 and only applies to the islands of Manihiki and Rakahanga.

Definitions

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

Contact sports means any sport that involves the participants coming into bodily contact with one another as an accepted part of play.

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 Ministry of Health (COVID-19) Regulations (“**regulations**”) and used, but not defined, in this direction, has the same meaning as in the regulations.

Face Coverings

3. Every person must wear a face covering while in any public indoor space; 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
- (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.
4. 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 Social Gatherings

5. All events and social gatherings, whether in a private or public setting, organised or spontaneous, are restricted to a maximum of **50 people** for indoor events or gatherings and **100 people** for outdoor events or gatherings unless an exemption has been obtained from the Secretary of Health (or delegate).
6. This includes (but is not limited to) parties; fundraisers; team sports training and games; sporting events; funerals; weddings; live shows; the cinema; night clubs; and family and meetings.
7. This does not include a gathering for the purpose of business or service –
- a. At an office workplace; or
 - b. As part of ordinary retail operations; or
 - c. At a hearing of a court or tribunal; or
 - d. Churches, cafes, restaurants and bars; or
 - e. As part of ordinary operations at an education entity.

Contact sports

8. Individual players may only participate in contact sports, whether in a public or private setting, training or match play, if they return a negative result from a Rapid Antigen Test conducted on the day of the training or match.
9. The following individuals are exempted from the requirement to undergo testing prior to training or match play of contact sports:
 - a. Players who have been issued with a valid green COVID-19 Freedom Card by TMO because they have recently recovered from a COVID-19 infection.

This direction comes into force at 12.00am on 12 August 2022

This direction will remain in force until 11.59pm on 23 September 2022



Bob Williams
SECRETARY OF HEALTH