



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

No. 263

27th September, 2022

Nauru

G.N.No. 1004/2022

National Disaster Risk Management Act 2016

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

SL No 29 of 2022

[Regulations 23 and 25]

DIRECTIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PURSUANT to the powers vested in me under Regulation 23, **I, Lionel Rouwen Aingimea, MP**, Minister for National Emergency Services, do hereby issue these **DIRECTIONS** for the purpose of easing the previous restrictions put in place to manage and minimise the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), commencing on 27th September 2022 until it is revoked:

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 immunocompromising diseases or taking immunosuppressive medications;
 - (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:

G.N.No. 1004/2022 (Cont'd)

- (a) in a public place; and
 - (b) places where maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 metres is impossible.
- (6) The maintenance of 1.5 metres physical distance is voluntary, but 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

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

- (a) attend to the Republic of Nauru Hospital or Naoero Public Health Centre to undertake a Rapid Antigen Test or conduct a self-administered Rapid Antigen Test;
- (b) where a Rapid Antigen Test produces a positive result:
 - (i) the person shall self-isolate at his or her place of residence for 13 days; and
 - (ii) the person shall not be out in the public including for the purposes of work or school in the case of students or teachers; and
- (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 Coronavirus (COVID-19) infected person

- (1) A person who is or has been in contact with a potentially infectious person with Coronavirus (COVID-19) shall self-isolate at his or her place of residence for 2 days.
- (2) A person referred to in clause (1) shall after 2 days of isolation attend to the Republic of Nauru Hospital or Naoero Public Health Centre to undertake a Rapid Antigen Test or self-administer a Rapid Antigen Test.
- (3) Where the test result is negative, he or she shall:
 - (a) end isolation;
 - (b) wear a face mask when he or she is out in public; and
 - (c) undertake a subsequent Rapid Antigen Test on the 4th day after commencement of self-isolation and if the test result is negative, undertake a final test 6 days after self-isolation.
- (4) Where a potentially infectious person has tested negative after 6 days of self-isolation, he or she may cease to wear a face mask when out in public.
- (5) A person in contact with a potentially infectious person who develops Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms within 10 days after isolation shall return to self-isolation for another 2 days and undergo a Polymerase Chain Reaction test at the Republic of Nauru Hospital or Naoero Public Health Centre.

G.N.No. 1004/2022 (Cont'd)

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

- (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);
- (c) standing or sitting within 1-meter or less for 15 minutes, 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 Coronavirus (COVID-19) 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*.

G.N.No. 1004/2022 (Cont'd)

8. Use of face masks in business premises

(1) A manager or employer of a business may require any person or an employee:

- (a) to wear a face mask;
- (b) to maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres; and
- (c) to use hand sanitiser at an entry or exit point as a condition of entry to such premises or place.

(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, sport 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 13 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).

G.N.No. 1004/2022 (Cont'd)

- (3) A person who travels to Nauru by aircraft or vessel shall take a:
- (a) Rapid Antigen Test upon arrival; and
 - (b) PCR test at the Republic of Nauru Hospital or Naoero Public Health Centre within 24 hours after arrival or as directed by the National Coronavirus Taskforce.
- (4) 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. 22 of 2022, notified in the Gazette on 5th August 2022 is revoked.

Dated this 27th day of September 2022.

HON. LIONEL ROUWEN AINGIMEA, M.P.
MINISTER FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES
