



July 2021

COVID-19 updates and advice

EPA COVID-19 Update – Sunday 18 July 2021

Following the Premier's announcement yesterday of tighter COVID-19 lockdown conditions for Greater Sydney, we have been in discussion with critical operators in the waste industry about what this means for the industry and the impact on continuity of service. I would like to thank those who worked closely with us yesterday.

We conveyed these concerns and impacts to senior government leaders and can advise that workers in the waste industry have now been **declared exempt as authorised workers**, under the latest Public Health Order:

- Workers in the waste industry are now authorised to travel outside an affected local government area if required for work purposes, but **only for the provision of critical waste work**
- The exemption covers waste resource recovery services, including collection, treatment and disposal services
- Details can be found [Section 33 in Authorised Workers on Service NSW website](#)
- You can leave home to go to work if you are an **authorised worker** undertaking critical work living in the Fairfield, Liverpool or Canterbury-Bankstown local government areas ie working in resource recovery including collection, treatment and disposal services
- This exemption also allows waste workers to enter common property on a residence under the direction of ensuring the health, safety or security of residents, ie waste disposal work can be carried out on common property of residential premises.
- If you live in or are staying in an affected local government area (such as Fairfield) but you work outside this area, you must have a **COVID-19 test once every 72 hours** (3 days) in order to be allowed to go to work as an **authorised worker**.

We recognise that the waste industry provides important services to the community and business and these exemptions have recognised that the latest restrictions had created challenges for you and your workforce.

To get on top of COVID, the Government's clear intention is to **limit the movement of people, especially across Greater Sydney. We clearly need to limit unnecessary movements.** This means all licensees and operators need to carefully assess which activities and services are critical and should continue, and which should pause during this lockdown period.

We will place a list of **frequency asked questions on our website** later today and hold an **online drop-in session** on Monday (we will circulate further details this afternoon).

If you have any concerns about being able to deliver on your environmental obligations, please raise them with us and communicate early, so that we can assist you and contingency plans can be put in place.

Senior NSW Government leaders are meeting daily, and we are raising questions and feedback in that meeting. It is particularly helpful if you can provide us with workable solutions to take to the meeting.

As you would be aware, the COVID-19 response is being led by NSW Health based on latest information and health advice. While the situation continues to develop it is important that you keep up to date. You can find details of the current requirements and advice on the NSW Government COVID-19 website [here](#).

We will continue to communicate with you and provide updates when we have new information. If you have any concerns about your operations, please contact the Environment Line on 131 555 or info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Tracy Mackey
Chief Executive Officer