

Public Health Act 1997

DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 16

(Mask wearing at events – No. 1)

I, MARK VEITCH, the Director of Public Health, in pursuance of section 16 of the *Public Health Act 1997* ("the Act"), in order to manage the threat to public health posed by the notifiable disease known as COVID-19 ("the disease"), direct that –

- (a) the organiser of an event at a stadium or arena, whether in an indoor area or outdoor area, must inform a person attending the event that the person is required to wear a mask if –
 - (i) the event has been approved by the Director of Public Health under the direction issued under section 16 of the Act and entitled *Mass gatherings - No.4*; and
 - (ii) the approval of the event under that direction includes the condition that all persons who attend the event are required to wear a fitted face covering; and
- (b) a person attending an event referred to in paragraph (a) must wear a fitted face covering while he or she is attending the event, including while queuing for, or entering or exiting from, the event; and
- (c) paragraph (b) does not apply in respect of the following persons:
 - (i) a child who has not attained the age of 12 years;
 - (ii) a person who holds a medical certificate, or other documentation by a medical practitioner within the meaning of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1931*, that certifies that the person has a physical, or mental health, illness, condition or disability that makes the wearing of a fitted face covering unsuitable; and
- (d) paragraph (b) does not apply to a person in following circumstances if the person wears a fitted face covering as soon as is practicable after the relevant circumstances end:

- (i) the person removes the fitted face covering to communicate with a person who is deaf, or has impaired hearing, and visibility of the mouth is essential for the communication;
 - (ii) the wearing of the fitted face covering would create a risk to the health or safety of the person;
 - (iii) the person removes the fitted face covering to enable clear enunciation, or visibility of the mouth, as part of his or her employment or training;
 - (iv) the person is orally consuming food, drink or medicine;
 - (v) the person is undergoing medical care, or treatment, that is unable to be provided while the person wears a fitted face covering;
 - (vi) if the event is a sporting event, the person is on the field of play, or in an interchange area connected to the field of play, at the event and the person is -
 - (A) an athlete playing or competing at the event; or
 - (B) a team runner working at the event; or
 - (C) an umpire or referee who is working at the event, or is at the event in anticipation of being required to work at the event;
 - (vii) the person is requested to remove the fitted face covering, by a person in authority at the premise to ascertain or confirm the identity of the person;
 - (viii) the person may lawfully remove, or is lawfully required to remove, the fitted face covering; and
- (e) a person attending an event referred to in paragraph (a), other than a person to whom paragraph (c) or (d)(vi) applies, must carry a fitted face covering while he or she is attending the event; and
- (f) in this direction –
- (i) **fitted face covering** means a covering, other than a shield, that fits securely around the face and is designed, or made, to be worn over the nose and mouth to provide protection against infection; and
 - (ii) **person in authority** includes –
 - (A) an authorised officer within the meaning of the Act; and

- (B) an authorised officer within the meaning of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*; and
- (iii) **premises** has the same meaning as in the Act; and
 - (iv) **stadium or arena** means a premises that is primarily intended for use for sporting and other similar recreational activities; and
 - (v) **team runner**, in relation to a sporting event, means a person who is permitted to run onto the field of play at the event to pass on instructions from the coach to a player.

Dated: 29 July 2021

Signed: Leanne Vitch

Director of Public Health