

COVID-19

COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Act (No 2) 2021

November 2021

Fact Sheet 6: Managed Isolation and Quarantine – restricting movement and making rules for the day-to-day operation of MIQFs

If you are staying in Managed Isolation or Quarantine (MIQ), you are required to remain in your room for the duration of your stay, except for specified circumstances such as to get fresh air, to smoke or in the case of an emergency. You are also able to receive deliveries and consume alcohol.

However, there are some limitations on these things in practice, to keep everyone safe. When leaving your room, you are always required to comply with the directions of the chief executive of MBIE and any conditions imposed. For example, in order to leave your room for fresh air you are only able to go at scheduled times and for limited periods. These powers are set in the Isolation and Quarantine Order made under the Act.

Likewise, there are limits to the quantity of alcohol that you are allowed to consume, and if MIQ staff suspect that you are receiving items that are a risk to health and safety, the items may be withheld unless you can demonstrate that they are safe. There may be circumstances where leaving your room and receiving items are suspended for periods of time to manage health and safety of workers and people in facilities. These requirements are set in operational guidance based on the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

What has changed?

The Amendment Act shifts existing powers and rules about movement in MIQ from the Isolation and Quarantine Order into the Act itself. The Act now expressly recognises the scenarios where the chief executive may choose not to authorise additional activities outside of rooms (like fresh air and exercise). This makes the exercise of that power more transparent.

The Amendment Act also creates a new power for the chief executive to make rules for the day-to-day operation of the facilities, such as about alcohol and deliveries. This provides more transparency around your requirements when staying in an MIQ Facility as well as the legal authority for those rules. The rules are being developed in parallel and should come into force later in December.

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How does this impact you?

These changes are unlikely to impact you directly. The rules you must follow while in MIQ will not change, but they will be more transparent, accountable and enforceable, and the MIQ system will be more efficient.

Want to know more?

For further information about the COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Act visit the Ministry of Health [website](#).