

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Regional Victoria – Transition to Step Three Restrictions

On Tuesday, 15 September, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, and Health Minister Jenny Mikakos announced Regional Victoria's reopening will be accelerated, moving to ['Step Three'](#) from Wednesday, 16 September.

Premier Andrews outlined the active case modelling showing that Regional Victoria had a 14-day case average of 3.9 and had no mystery cases detected in the last fortnight. These factors aided health officials to determine that Regional Victoria would be safe to move to Step Three restrictions on Wednesday, 16 September.

Step Three Reopening allows Regional Victorians to leave their homes without restriction if they remain in Regional Victoria.

The following restrictions remain:

Category	Restrictions
Social	Leave home: no restrictions on reasons to leave home. Public gatherings: up to 10 people outdoors. Visitors to the home: create a 'household bubble' with one nominated household allowing up to 5 visitors from that household at a time (infants under 12 months of age are not included in the cap).
Education and childcare	Childcare and early educators: Open. Schools: staged return to onsite learning for all students in Term 4 with safety measures in place. Adult education: learn from home if possible, onsite learning for hands-on, skills-based learning.
Retail and Hospitality	Hospitality: predominantly outdoor seated service, group limit of 10 per sectioned space (maximum of two) and within density limits – in addition to a maximum of 50 seated patrons in an outdoor space – subject to density limits. Retail: all open, hairdressing open with safety measures, most other beauty/personal care closed (visit DHHS for details). Real estate: private inspections by appointment only, auctions outdoors subject to gathering limits. Shopping: no person limits
Exercise and recreation	Outdoor contact and non-contact sport for ≤ 18 , outdoor non-contact sport only for ≥ 18 , with gathering and density limits, outdoor skateparks open, outdoor fitness for 10 people.

<p>Ceremonies and special occasions</p>	<p>Weddings: allowed with up to 10 people (including the couple, two witnesses and celebrant).</p> <p>Funerals: allowed with up to 20 people (not including infants under 12 months of age or people required to conduct the funeral).</p> <p>Religion: outdoor religious gatherings for up to 10 people plus a faith leader are allowed, facilities open for private worship for households or social bubbles, plus a faith leader.</p>
<p>Entertainment, leisure and travel</p>	<p>Intrastate travel: allowed by Regional Victorian’s, across Regional Victoria, within Regional Victoria</p> <p>Entertainment: outdoor venues and events, subject to pre-approved plans.</p> <p>Accommodation: open, with caps per the social bubble.</p>

COVID-Safe Plans

All services and industries in operation on-site will be required to have a COVID Safe Plan.

COVID Safe Plans must be in place to protect workers, customers, and visitors and to prepare for a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the workplace.

Employers are encouraged to use the following COVID Safe Plan template and guidance:

- [COVID Safe Plan guidance \(DOCX 82.95 KB\)](#)
- [COVID Safe Plan template \(DOCX 73.53 KB\)](#)

Face Coverings

Masks, or face coverings will continue to be mandatory in regional Victoria when outside households for everyone over the age of twelve.

That means face masks will be mandatory across Victoria, with the same exceptions that currently apply including for relevant medical conditions.

Timeline and Staged Easing

The Victorian Government plans to ease restrictions in four key stages, before returning to a ‘COVID Normal’ environment, in mid to late December.

Each stage transitions in line with progressive declines in 14-day average case numbers. Dates outlined are less relevant than the meeting of new case targets.

For details on Metropolitan Melbourne’s easement of restrictions roadmap see [here](#).

Next Step Transition Conditions

Subject to public health advice, the next ‘step’ is likely to be initiated when there are no new cases for between 14-28 days. Step Four will see public gatherings of up to 50 people outdoors and allow for



visitors in the home of up to 20 people at a time, with schools largely returning for onsite learning, and restrictions easing on businesses.

Regional Victoria Roadmaps

For details on Regional Victoria's easing of restrictions roadmap see [here](#).

For details on specific Regional Victorian industry restrictions see from page 7 of The Victorian Government's level of restrictions guide for businesses [here](#).

Further Information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant, Victorian Director, JP Blandthorn on +61 407 366 304 or Policy and Business Analyst, Raphael Mengem at rmengem@hawkerbritton.com.

Further Hawker Britton Occasional Papers on the activities of the Victorian Government are available [here](#).

For further coverage of Labor Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Hawker Britton Briefs [here](#). For further coverage of Liberal Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Barton Deakin Briefs [here](#).