

06 September 2020

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Restrictions Easing Roadmap

On Sunday, 6 September, Premier Daniel Andrews, Deputy Premier and Education Minister James Merlino, and Health Minister Jenny Mikakos outlined the Victorian Government's plan to ease restrictions and return to a COVID-normal economy.

Premier Andrews outlined the [epidemiological modelling](#) showing that Metropolitan Melbourne was not on track to safely move to Stage Three restrictions by Monday, 14 September. As such, The Premier announced that Metropolitan Melbourne would remain under [Stage Four restrictions](#) until Monday, 28 September – however with some minor easements.

From Monday, 14 September, in Metropolitan Melbourne the restrictions allow for only **four reasons to leave households**:

1. Shopping for food or other essential items – within five kilometres of an individual's household, by one member of the household, once a day.
2. To provide care giving, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment.
3. For exercise – within five kilometres of an individual's household – in household groups, or groups of no more than two – for no longer than two hours - recreational sport is not permitted.
4. Work or study if you cannot work or study from home.

Household Gatherings:

- Households cannot have visitors to their homes - except for caregiving, compassionate reasons or for receiving services. Exemptions include:
 - Visiting partners in relationships.
 - One nominated visitor for those living alone and single parents with children under 18.
- Individuals cannot visit friends and family who live at another household, except for caregiving, compassionate reasons or providing services.

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 inline with progressive declines in 7-day average case numbers. Dates outlined are less relevant than the meeting of new case targets.

The roadmap shows that most restrictions will remain in place until Monday, 26 October – and most industries will remain restricted until Monday, 23 November.

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

Roadmap: Key Components		
Stage	Restrictions	Transition Conditions
<p>1 <i>September 14 – September 28*</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curfew in place 9pm to 5am • Stay within 5km of your home except for permitted reasons such as work or education if these can not be done at home • Exercise or recreation: 2 people or a household can meet outdoors for two hours maximum • Visitors to the home: "Single person bubble" 1 nominated visitor if living alone/single parent (all children under 18) • Childcare and school are closed except for children of permitted workers • Shopping for essentials, 1 person per household, once a day • Restaurants and cafes open for takeaway and delivery only 	<p>Metropolitan Melbourne can move to the second step after 28 September AND when average daily case rates reach 30 to 50 cases over a 14-day period with public health advice regarding transmission source.</p>
<p>2 <i>September 28 – October 26*</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curfew in place 9pm to 5am • Only leave home for 4 reasons: school or work (if these can not be done from home), care or caregiving, to purchase essentials, exercise • Public gatherings: up to 5 people from a maximum of 2 households can meet outdoors for social interaction (infants under 12 months of age are not included in the cap) • Childcare is open to all children • Schools will see Prep to Grade 2, VCE/VCAL (Y10 – 12) and specialist schools return in Term 4. • Outdoor exercise with a personal trainer allowed • Restaurants and cafes open for takeaway and delivery only 	<p>Subject to public health advice, the third step can start after 26 October when: daily average number of cases in the last 14 days is less than 5 state-wide, and there are less than 5 cases with an unknown source in the last 14 days (state-wide total).</p>
<p>3 <i>October 26 – November 23</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions on leaving home • Spend time with others outside where possible • Public gatherings: up to 10 people • Visitors allowed at home from 1 other household (up to 5 people) • Schools will see a potential staged return for onsite learning for Grade 3 to Year 10 subject to public health advice • Hospitality open for predominately outdoor seated service only • All retail open, except personal care (hairdressers open) 	<p>Subject to public health advice, the Last Step can start after 23 November when: there are no new cases for 14 days (state-wide).</p>
<p>4 November 23 - No new cases for 28 days and no active cases*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions on leaving home • Public gatherings: up to 50 people outdoors • Visitors in the home: up to 20 visitors at a time • Schools will see a potential staged return for onsite learning for Grade 3 to Year 10 subject to public health advice. • Hospitality open for seated service only • All retail open with safety measures • Phased return of organised contact sports resume for all ages. Limitations for spectators • Galleries, museums and other entertainment venues open with some restrictions 	<p>Subject to public health advice, when there are no new cases for 28 days and no active cases (state-wide) and no outbreaks of concern in other States and Territories.</p>
<p>COVID Normal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions on leaving home • No restrictions on public gatherings but organisers encouraged to keep records of attendees • No restrictions on visitors at home • Schools open for onsite learning with safety measures • Hospitality and retail all open • No limits on weddings or funerals but organisers encouraged to keep records of attendees • No restrictions on community sports or spectators • Galleries, museums and other entertainment venues open with safety measures and record-keeping 	

Industry Easing Roadmap

Under '[The Roadmap](#)', industry will be restricted according to four levels of restrictions tailored for each sector:

- Closed (red)
- Heavily restricted (orange)
- Restricted (yellow)
- Open with a COVID-safe plan (green)

Many of the key COVID-Safe principles Victorian businesses and workplaces are already implementing are expected to continue.

The following six COVID-safe expectations will apply to Victorian Businesses:

- ensuring **physical distancing**, including following density requirements, making sure staff work from home wherever possible, limiting the total number of staff and customers in an enclosed area, and stopping carpooling
- **wearing a face covering** at all times in the workplace and ensuring full PPE is worn in high-risk settings
- **requiring hygienic workplaces**, with high-touch points regularly cleaned, staff regularly washing their hands, and hand sanitisers available for all staff and customers
- continuing to **act quickly** if staff become unwell by having a strict policy that supports them to stay home and get tested, even if they have mild symptoms. All places of work need to have a plan to act immediately if there is a confirmed case and records must be kept of all staff, customers, and visitors.

Additionally, wherever possible, **workforce bubbles** are expected to limit the number of staff who have prolonged and close contact with each other. The Victorian Government recommends that teams of staff should be rostered on the same shifts, with no overlap in shift changes and a reduction in staff working across work sites.

Education

From 28 September, subject to public health advice and subject to the average daily cases reporting between 30 and 50, schools will begin a staged return. The first-year levels back will be prep, grade one, grade two, and grade ten, grade eleven, and grade twelve (*for the purposes of VCE or VCAL studies*). Specialist Schools will also be permitted to return in the initial schools reopening stage.

Regional Victoria Roadmap

From 11:59pm on the 13 September public gatherings of up to five people from a maximum of two households are permitted to meet in Regional Victoria.

Regional Victoria is expected to be able to move through easing restrictions faster than Metropolitan Melbourne, and schools are expected to return to face to face learning for their fourth term of 2020.

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