

22 November 2020

## Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Advanced Last Step Restrictions Ease

On Sunday, 22 November Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Health Minister Martin Foley announced a transition to the advanced stages of the 'Last Step' restrictions across Victoria.

### Caseload

Victoria recorded its 23<sup>rd</sup> straight day with zero new cases. Victoria has zero cases under investigation and zero cases with an unknown source over the last fortnight. There is only one active case in Victoria, currently isolating in hospital; and it is this caseload that makes it safe to further ease restrictions.

### Advanced Last Step Restrictions

Last Step Restrictions – From Monday 23 November	
Category	Restrictions
Social	<p><b>Public gatherings:</b> increased to up to 50 people outdoors.</p> <p><b>Households:</b> up to 15 visitors allowed in homes.</p>
Education and childcare	<p><b>Childcare and early educators:</b> open.</p> <p><b>Schools:</b> open.</p> <p><b>Adult education:</b> learn from home if you can, onsite learning for hands-on, skills-based learning. On campus learning will return for some subjects during the summer semester.</p>
Work	<p>Work from home if you can.</p>
Shopping, Hospitality and Personal Services	<p><b>Hospitality:</b> No more than 300 patrons. A maximum of 150 patrons inside venues, with density requirements of one person per four meters squared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Venues less than 200sqm of floorspace are subject to density quotient of 1 per 2sqm up to a total of 50 patrons. QR codes must be used for venues using the small indoor venue density quotient. No group limits.</li> <li>- Venues 200sqm of floorspace or larger subject to density quotient of 1 per 4sqm up to 150 patrons. No group limits.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 300 patrons per venue outdoors, subject to density quotient of 1 per 2sqm.</li> <li>- Total venue capacity cannot exceed 300 people including both indoor and outdoor spaces.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food courts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indoor: Limited to the lesser of 50 per cent of a venue's fixed seating, capacity or a density quotient (1 per 8sqm).</li> <li>- Outdoor: Limited to 50 patrons per area subject to a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm. Each such area must be separated by 10 meters from the next. No more than 10 areas per facility to a maximum of 500 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Retail:</b> Open with a COVID-safe plan.</p> <p><b>Real-estate:</b> for auctions and inspections, 20 people are now allowed inside and 50 outdoors</p>

	<p><b>Personal Services:</b> for hairdressing, beauty and personal care services, masks can be removed for the person receiving the service of procedure if necessary, such as facial waxing, facials, beard trimmings and piercings around the mouth, nose and cheeks</p>
<p><b>Exercise and recreation</b></p>	<p><b>Indoor physical recreation (gyms):</b> Patron cap of up to 150 people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group or class size up to 20 people.</li> <li>- Density quotient of 1 per 4m<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> <p>Indoor skate parks up to 150 people,</p> <p>Trampoline and play centres will allow up to 150 patrons, in groups of up to 20, with a density quotient of 1 per 4m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p><b>Indoor community sport – contact or non-contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Patron cap of up to 150 people.</li> <li>- Group or class size up to 20 people.</li> <li>- Density quotient of 1 per 4m<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor sport and recreation – contact or non-contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Patron cap of 500, group sizes align with public gathering limits of 50 people, with a density quotient of 1 per 4m<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Indoor pools, including lessons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cap of 150 patrons, subject to density quotient, no group size limit.</li> <li>o Indoor and outdoor pools can open subject to the separate limits in each area.</li> <li>o Saunas, steam rooms and non-chlorinated spas open.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor pools, including lessons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cap of 300 patrons, subject to the density quotient, no group size limit.</li> <li>o Indoor and outdoor pools can open at the same time, subject to the separate limits in each area.</li> <li>o Saunas, steam rooms and non-chlorinated spas open.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ceremonies and Occasions</b></p>	<p><b>Weddings:</b> up to 150 people, or up to 15 if it is held at a private residence.</p> <p><b>Funerals:</b> up to 150 people, or up to 15 if it is held at a private residence.</p> <p><b>Religion:</b> Indoor religious gatherings and ceremonies: Cap of 150 with a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm. No group limit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Outdoor religious gatherings and ceremonies: Cap of 300 with a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm. No group limit.</li> </ul> <p>o Either indoor or outdoor ceremony, not both at the same time.</p>
<p><b>Entertainment, Community Facilities and Leisure</b></p>	<p><b>Indoor seated venues</b> (e.g. cinemas and theatres):</p> <p>Can host a maximum of 150 people per space and up to 20 people in any group booking), subject to density of 1 per 4m<sup>2</sup> and with larger facilities at a max of 25% capacity.</p> <p><b>Indoor non-seated venue</b> (e.g. museums and galleries, State Library): Open, group limit of 20, maximum of 150 people per venue, subject to density quotient of 1 per 4m<sup>2</sup>, max 25% capacity. <i>Further announcements will be made on Last Step settings.</i> Events may be considered separately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Outdoor spaces:</b> Open, for up to 50 per cent seated capacity up to a maximum of 300 people and density quotient of 1 per 4m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>- <b>Indoor spaces at outdoor venues:</b> Open, subject to restrictions on hospitality or retail depending on the space.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Arcade, amusement park, karaoke, escape room, bingo centre:</b> Indoors: Group limit of 20, up to 150 people subject to density quotient of 1 per 4m2 .</p> <p><b>Casino:</b> Cap of 1,000 patrons with every second gaming machine disabled, subject to a density quotient, group limit of 20 patrons, smoking permitted.</p> <p><b>Electronic gaming:</b> Group limit of 20, Venue cap of 150, density quotient of 1 per 4m2. Every second gaming machine must remain off .</p> <p><b>Creative studios, including venues for art and music:</b> Up to 20 people per space with 1.5 metres distance between patrons and subject to density quotient.</p> <p><b>Sporting Venues:</b> Large sporting venues will be able to have patrons up to 50 per cent of their usual capacity</p> <p><b>Libraries and Community Centres:</b> Patron cap of up to 150 people in groups of up to 20, subject to density requirements.</p>
<p><b>Travel and Accommodation</b></p>	<p><b>Accommodation:</b> up to 15 people per accommodation.</p> <p><b>Outdoor tourism spaces:</b> Density quotient of 1 per 4m2. Indoor tourism spaces:</p> <p><b>Tour groups:</b> limited to 20 people indoors and 50 people outdoors. Infants under 12 months and the minimum number of people required to operate the tourism service not included in cap.</p> <p><b>Tour Transport:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Enclosed vehicle: group limit up to 20 people from any number of households.</li> <li>o Open vehicle: group limit up to 50 people from any number of households. Infants under 12 months and the minimum number of people required to operate the tourism service not included in cap.</li> </ul> <p><b>Indoor tourism spaces:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seated: The lesser of 150 people or 25 per cent of seated capacity and subject to density quotient, with 20 per group</li> <li>- Non-seated: 25 per cent of venue capacity.</li> </ul>

For further [details](#) see the Victorian Government's [Industry Easing Levels](#) and ['Roadmap to Reopening'](#).

### Return to Offices

From Monday, 30 November, 'work from home' orders will be eased. Offices will be able to operate with 25 percent of staff present, subject to a density quoter of one person per four square meters.

Workplaces with fewer than 40 staff will be able to have up to 10 staff present subject to density requirements.

### COVID Normal

Victoria's next steps to 'COVID-normal' will be announced on December 6. The Premier indicated that Victoria was on track to ease household gathering limits in line with the summer holiday period.

From Monday 14 December, households will be able to host up to 30 people in homes per day. This includes all dependents expect those under the age of one.



## Industry

The Retail Industry Restart Guidance can be found [here](#).

All businesses are required to have a COVIDSafe Plan demonstrating:

- Actions to help prevent the introduction of COVID-19 and responding to suspect or confirmed cases
- Mandated use of face masks (except where exemptions apply)
- How requirements set by the Victorian Government are being met.

Some useful links for the businesses:

- [Six principles for COVIDsafe workplaces](#)
- [Face masks at work](#) which includes examples of exceptions to use.

## International Travel

Victoria will start accepting international flights from Monday, 7 December when the state's quarantine program resumes.

The state had asked the commonwealth for an extension to the original November 22 date to allow for the final preparations of the quarantine program.

The Premier indicated that there has been a number of changes made to the new Hotel Quarantine system including exclusive contracts with all staff, who will be required to only work for the hotel they are assigned to. In addition, no one who lives with anyone who works in aged care will be offered a contract.

## Face Masks

Masks will be required inside in all settings; they will not be required outside unless in a crowded space or que that does not allow for social distancing. All Victorians over the age of twelve are always required to carry a mask.

## 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](mailto: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](#).