

## Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Metropolitan Melbourne Step Two Restrictions Ease

On Sunday, 27 September, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced a transition to Step Two Restrictions in Metropolitan Melbourne.

The Premier noted that Metropolitan Melbourne's 14 day rolling average was now 22.1, well below the modelling that shaped the Second Step Restrictions Easement framework. As such, additional easements are to be brought forward from Monday, 28 September.

From Monday, 28 September, in Metropolitan Melbourne restrictions allow for the following **reasons to leave households**:

1. Shopping for essential goods (no limit to the number of people from one household that can leave to shop for necessary goods or services so long as group aligns with public gathering limits).
2. Caregiving or compassionate reasons.
3. Work or education (if permitted worker or student).
4. Exercise (2 hours per day within 5km of home or permitted workplace, driving to exercise permitted – permits must be carried if within 5km workplace zone).
5. Letterboxing as a candidate, employee or volunteer for local government elections.
6. End of life gatherings: A terminally ill person plus up to 10 people or a household can meet outdoors, Children under 12 months of age are excluded from this limit. This allowance will need to be signed off by the CHO or the DCHO in each individual case.
7. Visiting Resting place: A person may attend the resting place (a cemetery or columbarium) of a deceased relative for remembering a key milestone (e.g birthday, date of death, anniversary). Exempt from the 5km rule but can only travel to the resting place if it is within metropolitan Melbourne and must observe gathering requirements.

### Household Gatherings:

- Households must not 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.

### Workplace

The Premier announced the restrictions ease will mean that 127,000 workers can return to work as more industries are allowed to re-open with a COVID-Safe plan. This is an additional 27,000 workers than originally outlined in the initial easing roadmap. Industry changes include:

- Supermarkets and food distribution centres can return to full capacity.
- Abattoirs, seafood and meat processing plants can increase levels outlined by DHHS.
- Manufacturing can return with up to 90% of its workforce.
- Sole traders doing outside gardening and landscaping can return - not in teams.
- Retail pet grooming can resume.



Additional industries open include dental surgeries for non-urgent care and general services. Early education and childhood care will also re-open with a COVID-safe plan.

Some restrictions will also be eased for construction, manufacturing, warehousing, postal distribution and wholesale trade industries.

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

Updated Stage Two Restrictions	
Category	Restrictions
<b>Social</b>	<p><b>Curfew:</b> does not apply from 5am 28 September 2020</p> <p><b>Public gatherings:</b> increased to up to 5 people from a maximum of two households that can meet outdoors for social interaction (infants under 12 months of age are not included in the cap)</p> <p><b>Visitors to the home:</b> 1 nominated visitor if living alone/single parent (all children under 18) ('single social bubble'). care giving as per First Step.</p>
<b>Education and childcare</b>	<p><b>Childcare and early educators:</b> re-opened</p> <p><b>Schools:</b> remote learning with staged return for onsite learning VCE/VCAL and specialist schools from October 5, and Prep to Grade 6 from October 12.</p> <p><b>Adult education:</b> only onsite for those on permitted list.</p>
<b>Work</b>	<p>Only go to work if you are in a permitted industry – more workplaces to be permitted in following stages (see industry roadmaps)</p>
<b>Shopping, eating and drinking out</b>	<p><b>Hospitality:</b> take-away and delivery only</p> <p><b>Retail:</b> essential only with others only for click and collect</p> <p><b>Real estate:</b> certain permitted activities can be done in person but auctions online only</p> <p><b>Shopping:</b> No limit to the number of people from one household</p>
<b>Exercise and recreation</b>	<p><b>Outdoor recreation:</b> must be within 5km of home or work if you are a permitted worker, outdoor personal training allowed with up to 2 people per trainer, outdoor pools open. Hiking, fishing and other exercises that don't involve a facility, allowed</p> <p><b>Exercise:</b> outdoors, up to two hours per day total, split into a maximum of two sessions</p>
<b>Ceremonies and Occasions</b>	<p><b>Weddings:</b> Up to 5 people (plus celebrant) outdoors</p> <p><b>Funerals:</b> allowed with up to 10 people (not including infants under 12 months of age or people required to conduct the funeral)</p> <p><b>Religion:</b> places of worship closed, outdoor gatherings (not ceremonies) of up to 5 people, plus 1 faith leader, proximate to a place of worship, are allowed.</p>
<b>Entertainment, leisure and travel</b>	<p><b>Intrastate travel:</b> not allowed, unless for a permitted purpose</p> <p><b>Entertainment:</b> all venues closed</p> <p><b>Accommodation:</b> closed, except for a permitted purpose</p>



### **Step Three**

Metropolitan Melbourne is set to move to the 'Third Step' of reopening a week ahead of schedule.

Premier Andrews announced Government modelling gave confidence that the Third Step will come into effect in approximately three weeks, on Monday, 19 October. This is subject to the 14-day rolling average reaching 5 or less cases a day.

For more information on Step Three restrictions ease see Hawker Britton's Brief [here](#).

### **Face Masks**

Masks are mandatory *across all of Victoria* when outside households for everyone over the age of twelve. Exceptions apply, including for relevant medical conditions.

Victorians will now be required to wear a fitted face mask, covering the nose and mouth. Some of the concessions made will be adjusted – face coverings such as wearing a scarf, bandana or a face shield – will no longer apply.

### **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](#).