

27 October 2020

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Metropolitan Melbourne Advanced Step Three Restrictions Ease

On Monday, 26 October Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, announced a transition to the advanced stages of Step Three restrictions easing in Metropolitan Melbourne.

The Premier noted that “*now is the time to open up*”, with Metropolitan Melbourne’s 14-day rolling average case number at 3.6, below revised modelling that shaped the Step Three restrictions easement framework. The Department of Health and Human Services have noted this case load made it safe to further ease restrictions.

Active Cases

Victoria currently has 91 active cases, with zero cases reported in the last 24 hours, the first zero case day since 9 June. Just seven Victorians remain in hospital, with none in intensive care and just four active cases remain in residential aged care.

Advanced Step Three Restrictions Easing Framework

Category	Third Step, Melbourne Metropolitan from Wednesday, 28 October	Metropolitan Melbourne, Additional Easing from Monday, 9 November
Reasons to leave your home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · With caution: no restrictions on reasons to leave the house, must remain within 25km of home (with exceptions, including care for childminding, end of life, resting place, real estate.) · Intrastate travel: no change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Restrictions on travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria will remain in place until metropolitan Melbourne aligns with regional Victoria on 8 November · Face coverings: no change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Stay safe: no restrictions on reasons to leave the house · 25km travel restriction removed · Intrastate travel: allowed · Face coverings: no change
Gatherings of people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Home: <i>to be advised</i> · Public places: up to 10 people may gather outdoors from any number of households, or more than 10 if all from the same household (children under 12 months of age not included in the limit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Home: to be advised · Public places: no change

Category	Third Step, Melbourne Metropolitan from Wednesday, 28 October	Metropolitan Melbourne, Additional Easing from Monday, 9 November
<p>Indoor sport and recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indoorsport and recreation: not allowed · Indoor fitness and dance classes: Open only for recording and broadcast permitted only with minimum number of people required to conduct the recording/streaming, up to 5 people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o only one person at a time may be exempted from wearing a face covering under the strenuous physical exercise exemption. e.g. the trainer leading the broadcast o shared equipment may be used if cleaned between each user and comply with density and other requirements · Indoor swimming pools: Open for one-on-one hydrotherapy sessions with a health professional, carer or support person. No group sessions. Exceptions for private pools and professional sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indoor Physical Recreation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Non-contact physical recreation for those aged 18 years and under (e.g. dance classes) maximum of 20 people o Non-contact physical recreation means that the activity can be done with a distance of 1.5m o Spectators limited to one parent, guardian or carer only, where the child requires parental supervision · Indoor Community Sport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Non-contact sport for those aged 18 years and under o Non-contact sport means a sport capable of being done with a distance of 1.5m, including recreational classes o Spectators limited to one parent, guardian or carer only, where the child requires parental supervision · Indoor (non-contact) fitness, including indoor gyms to resume with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o density quotient of 1 per 8 sqm and patron cap of 10 per space (max 10 per group/class), cap of 20 per venue o Controls such as recommendation to wear face masks, limits on shared equipment, time between groups and requirement for a COVID Safe marshal on site. · Indoor pools (including swimming classes): open subject to pool maximum of 20 patrons or density quotient (1 person per 4m²)

Category	Third Step, Melbourne Metropolitan from Wednesday, 28 October	Metropolitan Melbourne, Additional Easing from Monday, 9 November
<p style="text-align: center;">Outdoor Sport and recreation including pools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Outdoor physical recreation and personal training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A household or up to 10 people in any group (trainer is additional to group) · Outdoor fitness or dance classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open for outdoor classes, up to 10 people, trainer not included in cap ○ Shared equipment may be used if cleaned between each user and comply with density and other requirements · Community sport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outdoor contact sport allowed for people 18 and under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to minimum number of people to play and facilitate the activity (e.g. soccer may be played with two teams of eleven players and the necessary coaching personnel and umpires) - One spectator per child permissible for supervision purposes ○ Outdoor non-contact sport: allowed for adults and people 18 and under <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to minimum number of people to play and facilitate the activity (e.g. cricket may be played with two teams of eleven players and the necessary coaching personnel and umpires) - Non-contact means participants must be able to maintain distance of 1.5 metres · Outdoor communal gym equipment: Open, no change · Outdoor swimming pools (including swimming lessons): Limited to the density quotient of the pool itself or 50 per pool, whichever is smaller, other than for the following exceptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exclusive use by a single school at any one time for education purposes ○ Exclusive use for community sport · Publicly accessible playgrounds: open, no change · Playcentres: closed, no change · Skateparks: outdoor open, indoor closed · Trampolining centres: outdoor open, indoor closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Outdoor physical recreation and personal training: no change · Outdoor fitness or dance classes: no change · Community sport: no change · Outdoor communal gym equipment: no change · Outdoor swimming pools: no change · Publicly accessible playgrounds: no change · Playcentres: no change · Skateparks: no change · Trampolining centres: Indoor open for 18 and under with same requirements as indoor physical recreation

Category	Third Step, Melbourne Metropolitan from Wednesday, 28 October	Metropolitan Melbourne, Additional Easing from Monday, 9 November
<p>Community facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Libraries and toy libraries: open to facilitate collection and return of books/toys or home delivery, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outdoor activities permitted for up to 10 people plus the people required to conduct the activity · Community venues: closed except for: hosting an essential public support service (10 people); hosting an essential support group (10 people); hosting a wedding (10 people) or funeral (20 people); or providing an exclusive venue for a single school at any one time for educational purposes; and activities in an outdoor space, subject to the public gathering limits (10 people), plus the person required to conduct the activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Libraries and toy libraries: Gathering limit of 20 people maximum indoors, with no more than 10 in a space, subject to density quotient - Community venues: no change
<p>Childcare facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Childcare facilities: open - In-home child minding: allowed for all children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Childcare facilities: no change - In-home child minding: no change

<p style="text-align: center;">Hospitality</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>From Wednesday, 28 October</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation for opening (staff can enter the premises to prepare for opening but must not serve customers): customer-facing facilities including hospitality, retail and entertainment that are reopening may return to work following announcement (26 October) · Food and drink facilities: open for seated indoor and outdoor service (both food and/or drink): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maximum 10 people per group, seated 1.5m from other groups · For indoor space: open with a cap of 10 persons per indoor space, with a maximum of 20 patrons per venue indoors, subject to density requirements (1 per 4m²) · For outdoor space: Open with cap of 50 patrons per venue outdoors subject to density requirements (1 per 2m²) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Live music permitted outdoors only with band included in venue limit, members must be at least two metres apart, wear a face mask (except limited exemptions). Other requirements apply · Hospitality in arenas/racetracks: hospitality venues in other sectors such as sports arenas are subject to the same restrictions as other hospitality if open to the public · Foodcourts: open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indoor seating: a maximum of two people per table, venue limited to the lesser of 25 per cent of a venue's fixed seating capacity or a density quotient of one person per eight square metres. This would be subject to regular cleaning and taking of names ○ Outdoor space: Outdoor areas with a maximum of 50 diners per area, group limit of 10, each area separated by 10 metres from the next. Maximum of 4 areas (200 people) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>From Monday, 9 November</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Food and drink facilities: open for seated indoor and outdoor service (both food and/or drink): No change to most restrictions · Hospitality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indoor: group and space limit of 10 and seated service, cap of 40 patrons subject to density quotient ○ Outdoor: Increasing to a patron cap of 70 patrons per venue outdoors subject to the outdoor density quotient - Live music no change · Foodcourts: open
---	---	--

Category	Third Step, Melbourne Metropolitan from Wednesday, 28 October	Metropolitan Melbourne, Additional Easing from Monday, 9 November
<p style="text-align: center;">Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult education: learn from home if you can • School: on-site learning for all year levels • Grade6&Year12Graduations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o permitted if within the existing grade cohort (e.g whole grade six cohort, not individual classes) o students and staff only (no parents). Can be broadcast for parents o COVIDSafe requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult education: no change • School: no change
<p style="text-align: center;">Shopping, retail and personal services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for opening—staff can enter the premises to prepare for opening: customer-facing facilities including hospitality, retail and entertainment may return from 26 October • Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services: open with requirement that only services where the client can wear a face covering are permitted (e.g. manicures, pedicures, body waxing, tattooing) • Market stalls: open • Auction houses: open • Other retail: open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services: no change • Market stalls: no change • Auction houses: no change • Other retail: no change

Category	Third Step, Melbourne Metropolitan from Wednesday, 28 October	Metropolitan Melbourne, Additional Easing from Monday, 9 November
<p style="text-align: center;">Entertainment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation for opening – staff can enter the premises to prepare for opening: customer-facing facilities including hospitality, retail and entertainment may return from 26 October • Indoor venues: Theatre, cinema, auditorium, gallery, museum, arenas, stadium, open for broadcast only • Non-seated outdoorspaces, excluding events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ outdoor spaces open with density quotient; indoor spaces closed ○ requirement for COVIDSafe Plan and venues with 500 or more capacity at one time must publish their COVID Safe Plan online prior to opening • Seated outdoorspaces with fixed or allocated seated spaces/ zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outdoor spaces open: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maximum 10 people per group, groups must be 1.5m apart from each other and seated ○ If fixed seating: patron cap of 50 people or 25% of the venue’s fixed seat capacity, whichever is lower ○ If no fixed seating but allocated seated spaces/zones: density quotient and maximum of 50 patrons at the venue • Drive-in cinemas: outdoor space open, no seating outside vehicles permitted • Arenas and stadiums: can operate for exclusive use by a single school at any one time for education purposes, for professional sport or broadcast • Retail betting venue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If wholly contained within a licensed premise: open, subject to licensed venue and retail restrictions ○ If not wholly contained within a licensed premise: open subject to retail restrictions • Arcade, amusement park, escape room, casino, gaming machine area, bingo centre, brothels, sex on premises venues: no change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor venues: no change • Outdoor entertainment venues: no change • Seated outdoor spaces: no change • Drive-in cinemas: no change • Arenas and stadiums: no change • Retail betting venue: no change • Arcade, amusement park, escape room, casino, gaming machine area, bingo centre, brothels, sex on premises venues: no change • Electronic gaming can return when Melbourne aligns with regional Victoria on 8 November 2020 • Venues may open gaming rooms to 25% of indoor hospitality patron cap – i.e. 10 of the max 40 subject to density quotient

Category	Third Step, Melbourne Metropolitan from Wednesday, 28 October	Metropolitan Melbourne, Additional Easing from Monday, 9 November
<p>Ceremonies and religious gatherings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indoor religious gatherings: Allowed for up to 10 people, plus one faith leader · Strict requirements to be contained in a COVIDSafe Plan · Can only have one gathering at a time whether indoor or outdoor · Outdoor religious gatherings and ceremonies: up to 20 people, plus 1 faith leader, proximate to a place of worship · Can only have one gathering at a time whether indoor or outdoor · Private worship: allowed for a household, and two adults and any of their children or dependents, plus a faith leader · Weddings: up to 10 people, including couple and two witnesses, celebrant and one photographer excluded from cap · Funerals: up to 20 people, people to conduct funeral and infants under 12 months not included in cap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indoor religious gatherings: Allowed for up to 20 people, plus one faith leader · Strict requirements to be contained in a COVIDSafe Plan · Can only have one gathering at a time whether indoor or outdoor · Outdoor religious gatherings and ceremonies: up to 50 people, plus 1 faith leader, proximate to a place of worship · Can only have one gathering at a time whether indoor or outdoor · Private worship: no change · Weddings: no change · Funerals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indoors: no change ○ Outdoor only: up to 50 people, infants under 12 months and people to conduct funeral not included in cap
<p>Real-estate services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Real estate inspections: allowed in accordance with record keeping requirements and density quotients, up to a maximum of 10 people from two households excluding the real estate agent · Real estate auctions: can be conducted outdoors and in accordance with up to 10 members of the public, plus the minimum number of people required to conduct the auction and the owners and/or residents of the property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Real estate inspections: increase limit to 10 people from any number of households, subject to density quotient and COVIDSafe requirements

Category	Third Step, Melbourne Metropolitan from Wednesday, 28 October	Metropolitan Melbourne, Additional Easing from Monday, 9 November
<p style="text-align: center;">Accommodation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Accommodation: no change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Accommodation: open, but each group booking is restricted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Only members of a single household; OR o Only intimate partners; OR o Only members of a single household and two adults and any of their dependent children or dependents · Members of separately booked groups do not share bedrooms at the facility.
<p style="text-align: center;">Tourism (tours and transport)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indoor spaces: closed · Outdoor spaces: open, but each group restricted to up to 10 people, plus the minimum number of people required to conduct the tour · Tour transport: permitted in open air vehicles, for groups of up to 10 people, plus the minimum number of people required to conduct the tour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Outdoor spaces: tour vehicles that supports the primary outdoor offering of the tourism facility, for trips of up to 30 minutes · Smaller vehicles: private gathering limit of a household plus 2 people and their dependents · Larger vehicles: up to 10 people, infants under 12 months not included in cap
<p style="text-align: center;">Industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work: work from home if you can · COVIDSafe Plan: no change · Poultry processing facilities: no change · Abattoirs and meat processing facilities: no change · Seafood processing facilities: no change · Manufacturing, wholesale, medical, pharmaceutical and PPE supply: 100% workforce capacity. Other additional obligations remain in place · Construction: 100% workforce capacity. Site visit limit on specialist contractors removed. Other additional obligations remain in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work: no change. · COVIDSafe Plan: no change · Poultry processing facilities: no change · Abattoirs and meat processing facilities: no change · Seafood processing facilities: no change · Manufacturing, wholesale, medical, pharmaceutical and PPE supply: no change · Construction: no change

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

Household Gatherings

The Premier said the Government were not yet “settled on a model that is simple and safe” for household gatherings, indicating a decision will be made by Wednesday.

Regional Victoria

On Sunday, 25 October, Premier Andrews announced further restrictions easing in Regional Victoria, which has a 14-day case average of 0.2. These changes will also begin from Wednesday, 28 October.

Regional Victoria Advanced Stage Three Restrictions – from Wednesday, 28 October	
Category	Restrictions
Gyms and Fitness Studios	Open with a maximum of 20 people, a maximum of 10 people per space, with a density requirement of 1 person per 8 metres squared
Faith and Compassionate Gatherings -	Indoors a maximum of 20 people plus one faith leader, outdoors a maximum of 50 people plus one faith leader. Outdoor funerals with up to 50 mourners
Sport and Recreation	Indoor community sport open – under 18 – Indoor pools a maximum of 20 people One-on-one hydrotherapy with health professionals will also be allowed.
Household Gatherings	Two adults and two children will be able to visit a household per day. Households will now be able to visit a care facility.
Hospitality	Hospitality venues can increase their capacity to 70 people outside and 40 people inside.
Libraries and Public Spaces	Libraries will reopen to a maximum of 20 people.

From Monday, 02 November, additional changes will come to Non-contact indoor physical recreation, becoming permitted for under 18-year-olds: e.g. dance classes, with maximum of 20 people and Non-contact indoor community sport will be permitted for under 18-year-olds, with spectators limited to one parent, guardian or carer.



Face Masks

Victorians are required to wear a fitted face mask, covering the nose and mouth. Masks are mandatory *across all of Victoria* when outside households for everyone over the age of twelve. Exceptions apply, including for relevant medical conditions.

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](#).