

26 February 2021

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Return to Preliminary COVID-Normal Restrictions

On Friday, 26 February 2021 Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Health Minister Martin Foley announced a transition to the preliminary stages of the 'COVID-Normal' restrictions across Victoria.

Caseload and Vaccinations

On Friday, 26 February 2021, Victoria tested 16,594 people, with two new local cases of coronavirus recorded, both close contacts of previously known cases, and both tested positive whilst in isolation.

Victoria now has 17 active cases.

The current caseload, alongside the successful track and tracing of primary, secondary and tertiary contacts has given the health advisers and the Victorian Government confidence to conclude the Circuit-Breaker restrictions within the original set timeline.

As of Friday, 26 February 2021, Victoria has administered 2902 vaccinations.

For a full list of exposure sites and locations where you can get a test, click [here](#).

Preliminary COVID-Normal Restrictions

Preliminary COVID-Normal Restrictions – From Saturday, 26 February 2021	
Category	Restrictions
Social	<p>Leave home: No restriction on reasons to leave home but “stay safe”.</p> <p>Public gatherings: Up to 100 people can gather outdoors from any number of households, infants under 12 months are not included in the cap.</p> <p>Visitors to the home: Up to 30 visitors can visit a home in a day (infants under 12 months are not counted in the cap). Visitors may be from any number of households and may visit either together or separately. Front and backyards are considered part of the home.</p>
Education and childcare	<p>Childcare and early education: Open.</p> <p>Schools: Onsite learning.</p> <p>Adult education: Open with no density quotient required in classroom settings.</p> <p>Learning institutions may have their own specific rules relating to mandatory use of masks.</p>
Work	<p>Offices: Public and private sector offices are capped at no more than 75 per cent of a workforce on-site.</p> <p>All workplaces with onsite workers require a COVIDSafe Plan.</p>
Hospitality	<p>Hospitality: No caps, however, density quotient of 1 per 2sqm for indoor and outdoor hospitality venues. Up to 25 patrons are permitted in a venue before the density quotient applies.</p> <p>No requirement for seated service. Density quotient of 1 per 4sqm on a dancefloor up to a maximum of 50 people.</p>

	<p>All venues are required to use electronic record keeping when applying the density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies.</p> <p>Food courts: Indoor and outdoor food courts open with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. No patron cap for indoor food courts.</p>
<p>Shopping, hairdressing and personal care</p>	<p>Real estate: Inspections and auctions operating with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm, subject to use of electronic record keeping. If not using electronic record keeping a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies.</p> <p>Retail: (e.g. supermarkets, other retail) Density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm, with record keeping where practicable.</p> <p>Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services: Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies, when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Face masks no longer required.</p>
<p>Exercise and recreation</p>	<p>Indoor physical recreation and community sport: No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm for each space.</p> <p>Gym and exercise classes: limited to 50 people (excluding anyone necessary for running the class). COVID Marshals required when gyms are staffed. At times when gyms are unstaffed, a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies.</p> <p>Signage must state the number of people permitted inside, wipes and disinfectant must be supplied for use by patrons, and record keeping is required and venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p>Outdoor physical recreation and community sport: Up to a maximum of 100 patrons for outdoor fitness classes with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. Record keeping is required and venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p>Pools, spas, saunas, steam rooms and springs: <i>Indoor venues</i> open with a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm. <i>Outdoor pools</i> open with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. Record keeping is required</p>
<p>Ceremonies and Occasions</p>	<p>Weddings: No maximum attendee caps indoors or outdoors, density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm applies when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies.</p> <p>If held in a private residence, up to 30 guests can attend. Density quotient of 1 per 4sqm on a dancefloor up to a maximum of 50 people.</p> <p>Funerals: No maximum attendee caps indoors or outdoors, density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. If held in a private residence, up to 30 guests can attend.</p> <p>Ceremonies and religious gatherings: Density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm applies. Venues using the density quotient of 1 per 2sqm must use electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Indoor and outdoor ceremonies can occur at the same time.</p>
<p>Entertainment and Leisure</p>	<p>Seated entertainment venues (indoors and outdoors): Open, up to 75 per cent of fixed seated capacity with maximum patron cap of 1000 people, density</p>

	<p>quotient of 1 per 2sqm in foyers, bars, bathrooms etc when using electronic record keeping.</p> <p>In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p>Arrangements for large events determined on an individual basis under the Public Events Frameworks.</p> <p>Indoor non-seated venues (such as galleries): Open, up to 50 per cent total capacity with maximum patron cap of 1000 people. Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p>Arrangements for large events determined on an individual basis under the Public Events Framework.</p> <p>Outdoor non-seated entertainment venues (such as Zoos, live museums): Open, density quotient of 1 per 2sqm when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies. Group limits removed. Indoor spaces at outdoor venues open, subject to restrictions relevant to the space (e.g. hospitality or retail). Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p>Arcades, escape rooms, bingo centres: Open, no maximum patron caps and a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies.</p> <p>Amusement parks: Open, up to 75 per cent of venue capacity. Density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies indoors. Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies outdoors, when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p>Gaming: Open, with a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm, every second machine turned off, and no seated service requirement. Electronic record keeping required.</p> <p>Nightclubs: Open, standing service permitted. Density quotient of 1 per 4sqm on a dancefloor up to a maximum of 50 people. Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm elsewhere in the venue, with no maximum patron limit. Electronic record keeping required</p>
<p>Community and Arts Facilities</p>	<p>Community venues and facilities including libraries and toy libraries: No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm, subject to use of electronic record keeping. If not using electronic record keeping a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies.</p> <p>Creative arts facilities: No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm, subject to use of electronic record keeping.</p>
<p>Travel and Accommodation</p>	<p>Accommodation: Bookings restricted to the private gathering limit. The person or household booking the accommodation can have up to 30 visitors.</p> <p>Tourism spaces and groups: No patron cap on tour groups. Masks must be worn on tour transport.</p>

	<p>Intrastate travel: Allowed.</p> <p>Interstate travel: Continued international border controls. State border controls activated in case of outbreaks</p>
Care facilities and hospitals	<p>Visitors: No restrictions on purpose, number or time limits of visits. Symptomatic individuals (e.g. sore throat), close contacts and returned international travellers excluded from visiting</p>

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 continue to restrict international flights until health officials advise that quarantine risks can be necessarily mitigated.

Stadium Capacity

The state government will allow a crowd capacity of 50 per cent at the MCG and Marvel Stadium to start the 2021 season.

From Thursday, 4 March, Marvel Stadium will be allowed to host 28,961 people.

From Thursday, 18 March, the MCG will be able to host a maximum of 50,000 fans.

Face Masks

Masks will be continue to be required on public transport, in rideshare vehicles and taxis, in sensitive settings such as aged care facilities – and in some larger retail settings including indoor shopping centres, supermarkets, department stores and indoor markets.

Masks should be continued to be carried all times. Masks are recommended, but not mandatory, when leaving home and physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Further Information

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