

23 March 2021

## Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Transition to Secondary COVID-Normal Restrictions

On Tuesday, 23 March 2021 Acting Premier James Merlino and Minister for Health Martin Foley announced a transition to the secondary stages of 'COVID-Normal' restrictions across Victoria.

### Services Victoria Application

All Victorian businesses and organisations are required to transition their contact tracing processes to [the Services Vic app](#) or a government API-linked digital system for electronic record keeping, within 28-days.

### Caseload and Vaccinations

On Tuesday, 23 February 2021, Victoria tested 9,939, with no new local cases of coronavirus recorded.

Victoria now has 0 active cases.

The current caseload has given the health advisers and the Victorian Government confidence to reduce restrictions.

As of Tuesday, 23 March 2021, Victoria has administered 59,509 vaccinations.

For a full list of exposure sites and COVID-19 testing locations, click [here](#).

### Secondary COVID-Normal Restrictions

| Secondary COVID-Normal Restrictions From 6pm on Friday 26 March 2021 |   |
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| Category   | Restrictions  |
| Social   | <p><b>Leave home:</b> No restriction on reasons to leave home but "stay safe".</p> <p><b>Public gatherings:</b> Up to 200 people can gather outdoors from any number of households, infants under 12 months are not included in the cap.</p> <p><b>Visitors to the home:</b> Up to 100 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><b>Childcare and early education:</b> Open.</p> <p><b>Schools:</b> Onsite learning.</p> <p><b>Adult education:</b> 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>Workers may attend onsite as required. On-site office work will no longer be capped (both public and private sectors).</p> <p>All workplaces with onsite workers require a COVIDSafe Plan.</p>   |

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| <b>Hospitality</b>                              | <p><b>Hospitality:</b> Density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm for indoor and outdoor hospitality venues. No requirement for seated service. All venues are required to use the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system for electronic record keeping (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty).</p> <p><b>Food courts:</b> Indoor and outdoor food courts open with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. No patron cap for indoor food courts</p>  |
| <b>Shopping, hairdressing and personal care</b> | <p><b>Retail:</b> (e.g. supermarkets, other retail) Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm, with record keeping (electronic recommended) where practicable.</p> <p><b>Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services:</b> Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies. All venues must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty).</p>   |
| <b>Exercise and recreation</b>                  | <p><b>Indoor physical recreation and community sport:</b> A density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies to each space.</p> <p>No caps on gym and exercise classes (other than limits imposed by dentistry quotients) COVID Marshals required when gyms are staffed. At times when gyms are unstaffed, a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies. Signage must state the number of people permitted inside, disinfectant and other cleaning products must be supplied for use by patrons, and electronic record keeping through the Services Vic application or a government API-linked digital system is required (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty).</p> <p>Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Outdoor physical recreation and community sport:</b> No cap on outdoor fitness classes other than density quotient of 1 per 2sqm. Electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system is required (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty). Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Pools, spas, saunas, steam rooms and springs</b></p> <p><b>Indoor venues:</b> open with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm when using electronic recording keeping (if not using electronic record keeping, density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies).</p> <p><b>Outdoor pools:</b> open with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. Electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system is required (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty).</p> |
| <b>Ceremonies and Occasions</b>                 | <p><b>Weddings:</b> No maximum attendee caps indoors or outdoors. Record keeping requirements as per the venue where the wedding is held. For weddings held at</p>  |

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|   | <p>a private residence, the private gathering limit of 100 people applies.</p> <p><b>Funerals:</b> No maximum attendee caps indoors or outdoors. Record keeping requirements as per the venue where the funeral is held. For funerals held at a private residence, the private gathering limit of 100 people applies.</p> <p><b>Ceremonies and religious gatherings:</b> Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies. Venues must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty). Indoor and outdoor ceremonies can occur at the same time. Indoor and outdoor ceremonies can occur at the same time.</p>   |
| <p><b>Entertainment and Leisure</b></p> | <p><b>Seated entertainment venues (indoors and outdoors):</b> Up to 75 per cent total capacity with maximum patron cap of 1000 people per space. Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm (including foyers, bars, bathrooms etc) and outdoor spaces. All venues must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty). Arrangements for capacity over 1000 are determined on an individual basis under the Public Events Framework. Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Indoor non-seated venues (such as galleries):</b> Up to 75 per cent total capacity with maximum patron cap of 1000 people per space. Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm. All venues must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty) 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 <a href="#">Public Events Framework</a>.</p> <p><b>Outdoor non-seated entertainment venues (such as Zoos, live museums):</b> No patron limits. Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm. All venues must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty) Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Arcades, escape rooms, bingo centres:</b> No maximum patron caps and a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm. All venues must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty)</p> <p><b>Drive in cinemas:</b> In areas outside of vehicles density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies. All venues must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty). Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> |

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|                                      | <p><b>Amusement parks:</b> Open, up to 75 per cent of venue capacity. Density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm applies indoors and outdoors. All venues must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty). Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Gaming:</b> Open, with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm and no seated service requirement. Electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system is required (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty).</p> <p><b>Nightclubs:</b> Standing service permitted. Density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm with no maximum patron limit. Electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system is required (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty).</p> |
| <b>Community and Arts Facilities</b> | <p><b>Community venues and facilities including libraries and toy libraries:</b> 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><b>Creative arts facilities:</b> No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm, subject to use of electronic record keeping.</p>   |
| <b>Travel and Accommodation</b>      | <p><b>Accommodation:</b> Bookings restricted to the private gathering limit. The person or household booking the accommodation can have up to 100 visitors.</p> <p><b>Tourism spaces and groups:</b> No patron cap on tour groups. Masks must be worn on tour transport. Venues must use the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system for record keeping (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty).</p> <p><b>Intrastate travel:</b> Allowed.</p> <p><b>Interstate travel:</b> Continued international border controls. State border controls activated in case of outbreaks.</p>  |
| <b>Care facilities and hospitals</b> | <p><b>Visitors:</b> No restrictions on purpose, number or time of visits.</p> <p>Symptomatic individuals (except those symptomatic due to underlying or chronic conditions), close contacts and returned international travellers excluded from visiting. Face masks required.</p>  |

## Face Masks

Face masks must be carried at all times. Mandatory when travelling on public transport or when travelling in a commercial passenger vehicle (unless a lawful exemption applies), by visitors to a hospital and by visitors to a care facility (while indoors). Not required in retail settings.

Any person diagnosed or suspected of having COVID-19, or who is a close contact of someone diagnosed with COVID-19, must wear a face covering if leaving home/accommodation for a permitted reason, such as medical care.

## **Stadium Capacity**

The state government will allow a crowd capacity of 75 per cent at the MCG and Marvel Stadium.

## **Industry**

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.

## **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](mailto:rmengem@hawkerbritton.com) or Policy and Business Analyst, Millie Boag at [mboag@hawkerbritton.com](mailto: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](#).