

As of 17:00 25 May 2021

## Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Preliminary COVID-19 Restrictions

On Tuesday, 25 May 2021 Acting Premier James Merlino and Minister for Health Martin Foley announced a transition to preliminary COVID-restrictions for Metropolitan Melbourne. The restrictions come in response to the emergence of a cluster linked to the Hotel Quarantine program in South Australia.

### Caseload and Vaccinations

In the last twenty-four hours Victoria tested 14,892, revealing four new cases linked to the existing cluster in Victoria's northern suburbs.

The cluster now brings Victoria's active community cases to nine.

The current caseload, alongside uncertainties surrounding community exposure has given the health experts and the Victorian Government cause to implement restrictions in Metropolitan Melbourne.

As of Tuesday, 25 May 2021, Victoria has administered 929,107 vaccinations.

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

### New COVID Restrictions for Metropolitan Melbourne

From 6pm, Tuesday 25 May:

- Private gatherings in the home will be limited to five visitors per day.
- Public gatherings will be limited to 30 people.
- Face masks will need to be worn indoors unless an exemption applies.
- Hospital and aged care home visitation restrictions will be implemented state-wide.
- Community sport spectators will be subjected to the public gathering cap.
- Indoor community sport referees and participants can remove masks whilst engaged in activity.

### Face Masks

Facemasks must be carried at all times. Face masks must be worn indoors unless an exemption applies. Masks are required for everyone aged 12 years and older. Facemasks use in-doors is set to remain mandatory until Friday, 4 June.

Facemasks are mandatory when travelling on public transport or when travelling in a commercial passenger vehicle (unless a lawful exemption applies), public transport officers can issue \$200 on the spot fines for passengers in breach of this public health order.

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.

### Key Exposure Sites

Victorians exposed to Tier 1 sites must get tested and isolate for the next 14 days.

Victorians exposed to Tier 2 sites must get tested and isolate until they return a negative test result.



Tier 1 and Tier 2 sites can viewed [here](#).

### **Regional Travel**

Victorians who live in greater Melbourne and travel to regional Victoria are permitted to do so, however they are subject to the restrictions set for Metropolitan Melbourne.

Victorians visiting regional Victoria from Melbourne will also need to wear a face mask when indoors, even when outside metropolitan Melbourne, unless an exemption applies.

### **Major Events**

Public events panel will review changes for major events. The Public Health Advisory Panel will provide guidance on future events subject to incoming caseload, testing and tracing data.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](#).