

23 June 2021

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Further Easing of COVID-Restrictions

On Wednesday, 23 June 2021 Victorian Acting Premier James Merlino, Health Minister Martin Foley and Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton announced a further easing of COVID-restrictions in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

Caseloads and Vaccinations

On Wednesday, 23 June 2021, Victoria tested 28,867, people, with 0 new local cases of coronavirus recorded.

Victoria now has 50 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 reduce the level of restrictions in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

As of Wednesday, 23 June 2021, 2,014,956 vaccinations have been administered in Victoria.

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

Preliminary COVID-Normal Restrictions for Metropolitan Melbourne

Preliminary COVID-Normal Restrictions – From Friday, 18 June 2021	
Category	Restrictions
Social	<p>Leave home: No restrictions on reasons to leave home.</p> <p>Public gatherings: Up to 50 people can gather outdoors from any number of households.</p> <p>Visitors to the home: Permitted up to 15 visitors per day together or separately, including dependants (infants under 12 months not included in the cap).</p>
Education and childcare	<p>Childcare and early education: Open.</p> <p>Schools: Onsite learning.</p> <p>Higher education and training: Study from home requirement removed. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies, except in areas used by students.</p> <p>Learning institutions may have their own specific rules relating to mandatory use of masks.</p>
Work	<p>Offices: Work from home requirement removed. Office work – 75 per cent return or up to 30 people if total workplace is 40 or less, subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm.</p> <p>All workplaces with onsite workers require a COVIDSafe Plan and QR check-ins are compulsory in all workplaces.</p>
Hospitality	<p>Food and drink facilities, food courts: No venue cap. A density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm.</p> <p>Smaller venues can have up to 25 patrons before the density quotient applies.</p> <p>Venues less than 600sqm can operate with lesser density of 1 person per 2sqm or 150 patrons provided they have a COVID Check – in Marshal.</p>

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Government Relations Strategy

	<p>Maximum patron cap of 300 indoors and 100 people outdoors per venue. No group limit. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p>Seated Venues: All Victorian restaurants and cafes can welcome up to 300 patrons for seated service indoors, and up to 100 outdoors.</p> <p>Non Seated Venues: Venues without seated service can also have up to 300 people indoors and 1000 outdoors.</p>
<p>Shopping, hairdressing and personal care</p>	<p>Real estate: Auctions and inspections can occur with no patron cap but are subject to a density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm.</p> <p>Retail: Open. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p>Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services: Open. Can remove mask for services. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p>
<p>Ceremonies and Occasions</p>	<p>Weddings: Indoor and outdoor weddings are permitted with 300 people subject to venue density limits. Dancefloors not permitted.</p> <p>Funerals: Permitted with 300 people plus those necessary to conduct the funeral, subject to venue density limits. Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.</p> <p>Ceremonies and religious gatherings: Permitted for up to 300 people per venue, density quotient of 1 person per 4 sqm applies. No group limits.</p>
<p>Entertainment and Leisure</p>	<p>Indoor fixed seated entertainment: Open with up to 75 per cent of seated capacity and a maximum of 300 people per space. No group limit.</p> <p>Outdoor fixed seated entertainment: Open with up to 75 per cent of seated capacity and up to a maximum of 1,000 people per space. No group limit.</p> <p>Outdoor Sports Stadiums: Professional sporting events will return this weekend with up to 50 per cent of the venue capacity, up to 25,000 people (AFL, A-League).</p> <p>Indoor Sports Stadiums: Professional sporting events will return this weekend with up to 50 per cent of the venue capacity, up to 5,000 people.</p> <p>Indoor non-seated entertainment venues: Open to a maximum of 300 people per space. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies. No group limit.</p> <p>Outdoor non-seated venues: Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies to a maximum of 300 per space indoors; and 1,000 per space outdoors. Limits apply in seated spaces, no group limit (e.g. amphitheatre)</p> <p>Arcades, escape rooms, bingo centres: Open to a maximum of 300 people per venue. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p>Amusement parks: Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies to a maximum of 300 per space indoors and 1,000 per space outdoors. Limits apply in seated spaces, no group limit.</p> <p>Casinos: Limit of 300 patrons per indoor space with COVID Marshals required. Subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm, every second machine closed or 1.5m between machines.</p> <p>Retail betting venues: Open to a maximum of 300 patrons per venue. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies. Venues within hospitality settings are subject to overarching hospitality limits</p>

	<p>Electronic gaming: Open to a maximum of 300 patrons per venue. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies. Every second machine closed or 1.5m between machines. COVID Marshals required. Venues within hospitality settings are subject to overarching hospitality limits.</p> <p>Karaoke and Nightclubs: Seated service only, to a maximum of 300 patrons, subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm. Dancefloors not permitted.</p>
<p>Community and Arts Facilities</p>	<p>Community venues and facilities including libraries and toy libraries: Open with a density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm and maximum venue cap 300 people. Venues less than 600sqm can operate with a lesser density quotient of 1 person per 2 sqm or venue cap of 150 patrons provided they have a COVID Check-in Marshal at the entrance. No group limits.</p> <p>Creative studios Open with a density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm and maximum venue cap 300 people. Venues less than 600sqm can operate with a lesser density quotient of 1 person per 2 sqm or venue cap of 150 patrons provided they have a COVID Check-in Marshal at the entrance. No group limits.</p>
<p>Travel and Accommodation</p>	<p>Intrastate travel: Movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria unrestricted.</p> <p>Travel to regional Victorian Alpine Resorts permitted. Visitors are recommended to have had a COVID test within 72 hours and a negative test prior to arriving in the Alpine region. Children under 12 years not included.</p> <p>Interstate travel: Continued international border controls. State border controls activated in case of outbreaks. Seven Local Government Areas in NSW have been declared as “red zones” by the Victorian Government and 14-day home quarantine is required upon return.</p> <p>Accommodation: Bookings permitted for single households plus 15 visitors (including dependants, but not infants under 12 months).</p> <p>Tours: Group size in public places determined by public gathering limits (50 persons). Venue limits including density quotients apply when tours enter or pass-through venues.</p> <p>Tour transport: Limit of 50 people per vehicle, face masks required.</p>
<p>Care facilities and hospitals</p>	<p>Care Facilities: Two visitors at a time, up to five per day, except for end of life (two visitors at a time with no total limit per day). Visitors do not have to be from the same household and there is no time limit. Prospective residents are also permitted to visit.</p> <p>Hospitals: Two visitors at a time, up to five per day, except for end of life (two at a time, with no total limit per day). Visitors do not have to be from the same household and there is no time limit. Non-essential contractors are restricted from entry.</p>

For details on industry and social restrictions see [here](#).



More information is available [here](#).

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).
- QR code check in.
- 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.

Business Support Extension

Applications for the Business Support Payments opened Thursday, 3 June 2021 – including for regional businesses applying under the original package – and will be open until 11.59pm on Thursday, 24 June 2021.

Businesses will only need to fill one application.

For details on funding programs see [here](#).

Face Masks

Face Masks must be carried at all times and are required to be worn indoors with the exception of within households.

It is recommended that Face Masks be worn outdoors where 1.5 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Further Information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant, Victorian Director, JP Blandthorn on (03) 9034 3020, 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](#).