

16 June 2021

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

On Wednesday, 16 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, 16 June 2021, Victoria tested 17,538 people, with five new local cases of coronavirus recorded. All new cases have been linked to known clusters.

Victoria now has 55 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, 16 June 2021, 1,781,467 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><b>Leave home:</b> No restrictions on reasons to leave home.</p> <p><b>Public gatherings:</b> Up to 20 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> Permitted for up to two adults per day (dependants of visiting adults excluded from cap).</p>
Education and childcare	<p><b>Childcare and early education:</b> Open.</p> <p><b>Schools:</b> Onsite learning.</p> <p><b>Higher education and training:</b> If you can study from home, you should continue to study from home.</p> <p>Learning institutions may have their own specific rules relating to mandatory use of masks.</p>
Work	<p><b>Offices:</b> Can return with 50 per cent of office capacity return or up to 20 people if total workplace is 40 or less.</p> <p>The government is asking people to continue working from home where possible.</p> <p>All workplaces with onsite workers require a COVIDSafe Plan and QR check – ins will become compulsory in all workplaces.</p>
Hospitality	<p><b>Food and drink facilities, food courts:</b> Open for seated service only with a maximum patron cap of 150 people per venue, no more than 75 indoors. Group sizes to a maximum of 10. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p>

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## Government Relations Strategy

<p><b>Shopping, hairdressing and personal care</b></p>	<p><b>Real estate:</b> Inspections and auctions: Auctions permitted with a maximum patron cap of 50 people outdoors. Inspections permitted to a maximum of 10 people, subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm.</p> <p><b>Retail:</b> Open. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services:</b> Open. Can remove mask for services. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p>
<p><b>Exercise and recreation</b></p>	<p><b>Indoor physical recreation and community sport:</b> Closed.</p> <p><b>Outdoor physical recreation &amp; sport:</b> Open, with a density quotient of 1 person per 4sq.</p> <p><b>Community sport:</b> Open for all ages, training and competition. Limited to minimum number of people required to participate in and facilitate the activity (i.e. players, coaches) and must be within venue limits above for indoor sports.</p> <p>Spectators not allowed (excludes people necessary for events such as teachers, instructors, trainers, coaches, umpires, carers, parents and guardians)</p> <p><b>Physical recreation &amp; sport (including Gyms):</b> Open with a density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm. Maximum venue capacity 150, including no more than 50 indoors. There is no venue limit if 100m distance can be maintained between groups outdoors (e.g. golf).</p> <p><b>Maximum group exercise size:</b> 10 people indoors, 20 outdoors.</p>
<p><b>Ceremonies and Occasions</b></p>	<p><b>Weddings:</b> Weddings (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 20 people (including the two persons being married, celebrant, two witnesses).</p> <p><b>Funerals:</b> Permitted with 75 people (and those necessary to conduct the funeral). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.</p> <p><b>Ceremonies and religious gatherings:</b> Permitted for up to 150 people per venue, including no more than 75 indoors, density quotient of 1 person per 4 sqm applies.</p>
<p><b>Entertainment and Leisure</b></p>	<p><b>Indoor fixed seated entertainment:</b> Open up to 50% of seated capacity up to a maximum of 75 people per venue. Group limit of 10 people. Density quotient of 1 person per 4 sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Outdoor fixed seated entertainment:</b> Open up to 50% of seated capacity up to a maximum of 150 people per venue. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Indoor non-seated entertainment venues:</b> Open to a maximum of 75 people per venue. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Outdoor non-seated venues:</b> Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies. Group sizes to a maximum of 20 people. No more than 1000 per space (e.g. amphitheatre)</p> <p><b>Arcades, escape rooms, bingo centres:</b> Open to a maximum of 50 people per venue. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Amusement parks:</b> Open with no outdoor venue limit, but no more than 75 indoors. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies up to 1000 people per space.</p>

	<p><b>Casinos:</b> Open with 10 exclusive rooms, electronic gaming machines and electronic gaming tables only. Maximum of 10 machines per room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm</li> <li>• Every second machine closed or 1.5m between machines</li> </ul> <p><b>Retail betting venues:</b> Open to a maximum of 150 people per venue, no more than 75 indoors. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Electronic gaming:</b> Open to a maximum of 50 people per venue. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies. Every second machine closed or 1.5m between machines.</p> <p><b>Karaoke and Nightclubs:</b> Open for seated service, to a maximum of 50 people indoors, subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm. Dancefloors not permitted.</p>
<p><b>Community and Arts Facilities</b></p>	<p><b>Community venues and facilities including libraries and toy libraries:</b> Open with a density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies. Maximum venue capacity of 75 people with a maximum group size of 10 people.</p> <p><b>Creative studios:</b> Open. A maximum patron cap of 150 per venue, including no more than 75 people indoors. Group sizes to a maximum of 10 people. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p>
<p><b>Travel and Accommodation</b></p>	<p><b>Intrastate travel:</b> Victoria has no internal travel restrictions however, travel to regional Victorian Alpine Resorts is permitted providing visitors have had a COVID test within 72 hours of departing Melbourne. Children under 2 years not included.</p> <p>Visitors be able to show evidence of a negative test as condition of entry into ski field.</p> <p><b>Interstate travel:</b> Continued international border controls. State border controls activated in case of outbreaks.</p> <p><b>Accommodation:</b> Accommodation: Open. Bookings permitted for single households plus two adults (plus their dependants).</p> <p><b>Tours:</b> Indoors maximum tour size 10 patrons. Outdoors maximum tour size 50 patrons, with group booking limit of 20 patrons. Operated only by minimum number of people required</p> <p><b>Tour transport:</b> Limit of 10 people per vehicle</p>
<p><b>Care facilities and hospitals</b></p>	<p><b>Visitors:</b> No visitors are permitted into aged care or other residential facility settings, except for end-of-life reasons and other excepted reasons such as essential care and support. Visit from a prospective resident is permitted with no more than one person accompanying. Non-essential contractors are restricted from entry.</p> <p>No visitors are permitted into health care settings, except for end-of-life reasons, as a support partner for birth, or a parent to accompany a child. Non-essential contractors are restricted from entry.</p>

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

## Regional Victoria

Regional Victoria will have additional restrictions lifted including visitors to the home, and increased density in hospitality, religious and retail settings.

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)
- 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](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](#).