

16 August 2021

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Lockdown extension and additional restrictions.

On Monday, 16 August 2021 Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced an extension of the current lockdown until Thursday, September 2nd, 2021. In addition to the extension, the Premier announced a return to restrictions seen in last year's stage four lockdown including the curfews and authorised work permits.

It is hoped the lockdown will suppress the rate of infection and the number of unlinked cases.

Caseload and Vaccinations

In the last twenty-four hours Victoria recorded 29,986 tests; revealing twenty-two new locally acquired cases, including several unlinked cases.

The cluster now brings Victoria's active community cases to two hundred and five.

The current caseload, alongside uncertainties surrounding community exposure has given health experts reason to advise the Victorian Government to implement further restrictions in Victoria.

As of Monday, 16 August 2021, Victoria has administered 4,012,922 vaccinations.

For a full list of COVID-19 testing locations, click [here](#). Tier 1 and Tier 2 exposure sites can view [here](#).

Circuit-Breaker Restrictions

At 11:59pm on Monday, 16 August Victoria will move to Stage Four restrictions until Thursday, 2 September.

These restrictions allow for only five reasons to leave households:

1. Shopping for food or other essential items – within five kilometres of an individual's household.
2. To provide care giving, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment.
3. For exercise, for up to two hours – within five kilometres of an individual's household – with up to one member of your household plus dependants.
4. Work or study if you cannot work or study from home.
5. To get vaccinated.

Intrastate travel: travel limit of 5km from place of primary residence.

Under the strengthened restrictions designed to curb potential transmission events, playgrounds, basketball hoops, skate parks and outdoor exercise equipment will now be closed. People will not be able to remove their masks to drink alcoholic beverages in public.

Exercise will be limited to just you and one other person, plus dependants if they can't be left at home. This is similar to the current rule, but with a slight change so that if you live in a larger household such as a share house, or with extended family, you can no longer exercise with all members of your household.



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Government Relations Strategy

COVID Restrictions – from 11:59pm Monday 16 August until Thursday 2 September.

Category	Restrictions
Social	Public gatherings: Not permitted. Visitors to the home: Not permitted. Intimate partner and single bubble visits are allowed but cannot leave during curfew.
Work	Offices: If you can work from home, you must work from home All workplaces with onsite workers require a COVIDSafe Plan.
Hospitality	Hospitality: Open for takeaway only.
Shopping, hairdressing and personal care	Real estate: Closed. Essential retail: Open, DQ 1 per 4sqm. Other/general retail: Closed, click and collect acceptable. Auction houses: Closed, (permitted online). Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services: Closed.
Education and childcare	Early learning centres, childcare, family day care: Open School: Schools closed and moved to remote learning but will be open for vulnerable children and the children of essential workers. Higher education and training: Closed, remote learning only
Exercise and recreation	Indoor physical recreation and community sport: Closed. Gym and exercise classes: Closed. Outdoor physical recreation and community sport: Closed. Pools, spas, saunas, steam rooms and springs: Closed.

<p>Ceremonies and Occasions</p>	<p>Weddings (indoor and outdoor): not permitted (unless for compassionate reasons).</p> <p>Funerals (indoor and outdoor): Funerals will be permitted with up to ten people, plus those who conduct the service.</p> <p>Religious gatherings and ceremonies: No in-person gatherings permitted. Broadcast permitted.</p>
<p>Entertainment and Leisure</p>	<p>Closed: Except professional athletes are defined as essential workers, venues hosting professional sporting competitions can open, with essential staff attending to ensure the safe running of the event. No spectators.</p> <p>Seated entertainment venues (indoors and outdoors): Closed</p> <p>Indoor non-seated venues (such as galleries): Closed.</p> <p>Outdoor non-seated entertainment venues (such as Zoos, live museums): Closed</p>
<p>Construction</p>	<p>Large Projects: Limited to 25% onsite.</p> <p>Small Projects: Limited to 5 people on site.</p>
<p>Community and Arts Facilities</p>	<p>Community venues and facilities including libraries and toy libraries: Closed</p> <p>Creative arts facilities: Closed</p>
<p>Travel and Accommodation</p>	<p>Accommodation: Closed unless for permitted reasons, or shelter in place. Nonew bookings. Current guests can remain.</p>
<p>Care facilities and hospitals</p>	<p>Visitor restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visitors are permitted into aged care or other residential facility settings, except for end-of-life reasons • Non-essential contractors are restricted from entry <p>Hospital Visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor restrictions: • 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

The Victorian Government's Table of Restrictions is available [here](#).

Further Information

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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](#).