

BULLETIN: 28/2021

COVID-19 CIRCUIT BREAKER LOCKDOWN FAQs

New changes have been introduced to slow the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the number of people leaving their homes and moving around Victoria.

Please find below FAQs relating to the circuit breaker lockdown and attached materials that you can share with your community via social media and digital platforms.

Can council meetings be held?

If you can work from home, you must work from home. Council meetings must move online. Workers who are on the [Authorised Provider or Authorised Worker list may meet, if they cannot work remotely.](#)

Can general maintenance tasks such as landscaping, lawnmowing or road maintenance continue?

General non-urgent maintenance tasks, such as mowing recreational areas and roadsides, general gardening, landscaping and painting, should not occur. For answers on urgent repairs see below.

Landscaping works can continue where they are occurring:

- As part of a new build
- As a standalone project on an existing property where there are no residents

Landscaping works should not proceed at occupied properties.

Garden maintenance must not occur unless it is required to maintain or protect human health, safety and wellbeing.

What about urgent repairs?

You can do urgent repairs if a delay in completing the task would cause safety issues or greater loss or damage. Examples include road repairs that pose a risk to public safety and the clearing of fallen trees obstructing road or otherwise threatening public safety. Staff must always wear face masks (inside and outdoors, including in vehicles with more than one occupant) and observe physical distancing.

Can urgent IT repairs be undertaken to keep council IT systems functioning?

Where staff can work from home, they must work from home. If urgent repairs are required to office-based infrastructure to keep council IT systems functioning and others working from home, they can be carried out. Staff should be on-site for the minimum time possible, should always wear face masks (inside and outdoors) and observe physical distancing.

Can planning permit site inspections be carried out?

Authorised officers can do site inspections to keep building and construction projects going. They must always wear face masks (inside and outdoors, including in vehicles with more than one occupant) and observe physical distancing.

Can libraries remain open?

Libraries must close unless hosting an essential public support service, such as a food bank service (volunteer-based or otherwise). Only the minimum number of staff required to enable the service are permitted, and a maximum of 10 members of the public may attend at a time. Libraries must otherwise be closed to the public but can provide click-and-collect services. Staff should be kept to a minimum and must wear face masks (unless an exemption applies) and observe physical distancing.

Do swimming pools need to close?

Swimming pools, spas, saunas, springs, and steam rooms must close, except for permitted hydrotherapy services.

Group hydrotherapy services are not allowed. One-on-one hydrotherapy sessions may continue if the person attending is accompanied by a health worker, parent, carer or guardian. Multiple individual sessions can occur simultaneously, subject to a density quotient of one person per eight square metres, both inside and outside the pool, up to a maximum of 10 people in any pool at one time. No access is permitted to saunas within the facility.

Can councils continue providing immunisation or vaccination services?

Yes, immunisation and vaccination services can continue.

Can council-managed childcare, early learning centres, kindergartens, preschool or family day care continue?

Yes, these services are on the [Authorised Provider and Authorised Worker list](#) and can continue.

Can council-managed maternal and child health services continue?

Yes, maternal and child health workers provide essential care to newborns or at-risk babies and children, and are on the [Authorised Provider and Authorised Worker list](#).

Can domestic and commercial waste and resource recovery services continue?

Yes, services including collection, treatment and disposal services and transfer stations are considered essential services and can continue. Staff must always wear face masks (unless an exemption applies) and observe physical distancing.

Can council staff provide administrative services to allow other employees to work from home?

If you can work from home, you must work from home. Where an administrative service enables staff to work from home, such as payroll and IT services, and this service can only be delivered from the office, it is permitted. Staff must always wear face masks (unless you have a lawful reason not to) and observe physical distancing. Onsite attendance should be kept to the minimum number of staff required.

Can council operate its animal pounds and shelters?

Council can operate animal pounds and shelters, but they must not open to the public. Staff must always wear face masks (unless an exemption applies) and observe physical distancing.

More information is available at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au or call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15.

Regards

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