BULLETIN: 29/2021

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

The Victorian Government has announced changes to Victoria’s restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria from 11.59pm Thursday 3 June.

For a detailed overview of the changes, see the Table of Restrictions. Please note, more specific sector information will be available shortly. Following is a high-level summary.

Restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne
The current restrictions will remain in place in Melbourne for a further seven days, with some small changes. From 11:59pm 3 June 2021:

- There will still be only five reasons to leave home: shopping for food and supplies, authorised work and study, care and caregiving, exercise, and getting vaccinated.
- A number of outdoor jobs will be added to the authorised list – like landscaping, painting, installing solar panels, or letterboxing.
- Other restrictions – including mask wearing – will stay the same.
- People will be able to travel further for exercise and shopping, with an expanded 10km radius.
- People from Melbourne will not be able to travel to regional Victoria, including over the Queen’s Birthday long weekend.

Restrictions for regional Victoria
Regional restrictions are proposed to begin easing from 11:59pm Thursday 3 June. These changes are subject to contact tracing and testing over the next 24 hours:

- Travel restrictions and the ‘five reasons to leave home’ will be lifted.
- Restaurants and cafés can reopen to a maximum of 50.
- Retail, beauty and personal care, entertainment venues and community facilities will also open in line with density limits.
- Businesses that are open in regional Victoria must check the IDs of everyone they serve.
- Religious ceremonies and funerals will be capped at 50, weddings at ten.
- If you can work from home, you should continue to work from home. Capacity limits in workplaces such as offices capped at 50 per cent or 20 people, whichever is greater.
- Masks must still be worn inside.
- Regional Victorians will be able to travel in regional Victoria. Melburnians will not.
- Public gatherings will increase to ten people.
- Visitors to the home will not be allowed.

QR Codes – New requirements
QR code record keeping requirements will now be mandatory in retail settings, like supermarkets and shops.

Retailers must use the Service Victoria QR Code Service.

The 15-minute threshold will also be removed so anyone entering a shop or a cafe will need to check-in, regardless of how long they visit the premises.
Support for businesses

Building on the $250.7 million Circuit Breaker Business Support Package announced Sunday 30 May, a new allocation of up to $209.3 million will flow to small and medium-sized businesses, including sole traders, increasing the total support package to $460 million.

The Business Costs Assistance Program grants for eligible businesses located in metropolitan Melbourne will be doubled from $2500 to $5000.

- Regional businesses unable to open due to the ongoing restrictions, such as nightclubs and amusement parks, will also be eligible for the extended payment.
- Metropolitan businesses that will have restrictions eased from Friday will not be eligible for the extended payment.

Applications for the Business Costs Assistance Program are scheduled to open on Thursday 3 June and will remain open until 11.59pm on Thursday 24 June 2021.

The Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund grants for businesses in metropolitan Melbourne with eligible liquor licences and food certificates will be doubled from $3500 to $7000.

Eligible liquor licensees under the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund payment will be emailed directly by Business Victoria tomorrow, Thursday 3 June 2021, with a link to their grant application form.

For more information on how to apply, visit Business Victoria or call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15.

Other important information for businesses

It’s critical that businesses with on-site operations continue to comply with cleaning, signage, record keeping, and other COVIDSafe requirements.

Businesses must have an active, up-to-date COVIDSafe Plan and those that fail to do the right thing face significant fines.

All Victorians over the age of 40 are be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. For more information on how to book your vaccine appointment, visit the Coronavirus website.

Stay up to date with the latest exposure sites. Anyone with symptoms should get tested immediately. The list of testing sites includes wait times.

Victorian workers can apply for a $450 COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment that provides financial support while they self-isolate to wait for the results of a COVID-19 test.

For more information, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au or call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15.

Regards

Julie Reid
Executive Director
Local Government Victoria

Authorised by Emily Phillips, Deputy Secretary
Local Government and Suburban Development
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions