

## BULLETIN: 72/2021

### COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS TO LIFT FOR REGIONAL VICTORIA

The [Victorian Government has announced](#) lockdown restrictions will be lifted in regional Victoria from 11.59 pm on Thursday 9 September.

A summary of the changes is outlined below. For a detailed overview of the restriction changes, see the [Table of Restrictions](#).

#### Key points:

- The five reasons to leave home will be removed in regional Victoria, except for Greater Shepparton.
- There will be no limit on the distance regional Victorians can travel from home – other than restrictions on entry to metropolitan Melbourne.
- The Authorised Worker list will no longer apply in the regions, meaning most businesses and venues can reopen with capacity and density limits.
- Regional Victorians will return to the rule ‘if you can work from home, you should work from home’ but up to 25 per cent capacity of office workers may return, or up to 10 people, whichever is greater.

There remains a significant risk of Delta cases seeding from NSW or metropolitan Melbourne. Therefore:

- Restaurants and cafes can reopen for seated service with patron caps.
- Retail, hairdressing, entertainment venues and community facilities will also open with density limits and patron caps.
- Masks will continue to be required indoors and outdoors, including workplaces, unless an exception applies.
- While restrictions remain in metropolitan Melbourne, businesses that are open in regional Victoria – such as restaurants or beauty services – must check the IDs of everyone they serve.
- Funerals will be permitted for up to 20 people and weddings will be permitted for up to 10 people, plus those required to conduct the service. Stricter limits will be in place for weddings and funerals if people from Melbourne are in attendance.
- Regional schools will reopen for onsite learning for Prep to Grade 2 and Year 12 students. Remote learning will remain for all other levels. Onsite supervision at schools is available for vulnerable children and children of essential workers in all year levels, including for students from metropolitan Melbourne.

#### Restriction update for metropolitan Melbourne

There is one change to restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne. Single parents will now be able to access childcare, regardless of whether they are an authorised worker.

#### Keeping regional communities safe

Victoria Police will significantly expand their operation along the metropolitan border to protect regional Victoria. Police in regional Victoria will also conduct spot checks. The fine for breaching the Chief Health Officer’s directions is \$5,452.

#### Home-based quarantine trials

A number of states including Victoria have agreed to commence trials of home-based quarantine. The first of these pilots will support around 200 Victorian residents who are stuck on the NSW side of the border.

This means:

- Victorians who have been residing in a NSW Local Government Border Area for at least 14 days from Wednesday 25 August to Wednesday 8 September will be able to apply for a new permit exemption category: 'Victorians in the cross-border community' to return home.
- **Applicants must have received at least their first dose of a coronavirus vaccine.**
- Applications can be made via the Service Victoria website or app from midday on Friday 10 September until 6 pm on Friday 17 September.

Further pilots are being worked on which would support Victorians in other areas of NSW and the ACT who want to come home.

### **Vaccination update**

When more people are vaccinated, there will be fewer outbreaks and less need for restrictions.

All Victorians are encouraged to book their vaccination by visiting [portal.cvms.vic.gov.au](https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au) or by phoning the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Group bookings are now available at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/group-bookings-service](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/group-bookings-service).

Regards

**Julie Reid**  
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Authorised by Emily Phillips, Deputy Secretary  
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