

BULLETIN: 45/2021

Information For Communities On The NSW Border

The outbreak in New South Wales highlights the importance of [Victoria's Travel Permit System](#).

All of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory was declared a red zone under the Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions at 11:59pm Sunday 11 July 2021.

This means the Victorian border is effectively closed to New South Wales and the ACT – except for:

- Victorian residents returning on a red zone permit
- [residents of cross border](#) communities to travel within the cross-border area, as long as they have not travelled into a red zone beyond this area
- people with other valid permits (such as specified workers)
- and for people with exemptions or exceptions.

If you're a Victorian resident: You can obtain a [red zone permit](#) to return to Victoria if you have not visited a very high-risk exposure site during the relevant periods AND are not currently diagnosed with COVID-19, identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, or are required to self-isolate or self-quarantine (or equivalent) in any State, Territory or Green Zone Country.

On arrival you must:

- Travel directly to the premises at which you will self-quarantine for 14 days (from the date of entry into Victoria), and only leave the premises in very limited circumstances (to obtain medical care, get tested for COVID-19, in an emergency, when required by law, or to leave Victoria).
- Get tested for COVID-19 within 72 hours of entering Victoria and again on around day 13 of self-quarantine.
- Minimise contact with other persons in Victoria (except in an emergency);
- Practise physical distancing.
- Wear a face covering in all public places (unless an exception from the requirement to wear a face covering applies).
- Advise the Department immediately if you experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Apply for a Travel Permit at the [Service Victoria website](#).

If you aren't a Victorian resident: You cannot enter Victoria from a [red zone](#) without an [exception, exemption or other valid permit](#).

If you live in the NSW cross-border area: Whilst most people will need to apply for a permit to enter Victoria from interstate, those living in [local government areas](#) along the Victoria/NSW border will not need a permit but will instead be able to use their driver's licence (or other form of proof that you are a cross border community member, such as photo ID and evidence of your current address) as a passport to travel within the NSW/VIC border region, and into Victoria.

You cannot enter Victoria if you have been to a red zone outside of the cross-border community area, or if you have COVID-19, any symptoms, or have been defined as a close contact by a state health authority.

A strong police and Authorised Officer presence will continue at Victoria's land borders and airports. Substantial fines have already been handed down to individuals arriving without a valid permit since current red zones have come into effect.

Specified worker permits

Workers who need to travel to Victoria from a Red Zone or Orange Zone for work, or to return to Victoria having worked in a Red Zone or Orange Zone, may enter Victoria if they have a permit.

Workers who perform all their work exclusively outdoors are eligible for a [Specified Worker \(Exclusive Outdoors Activities\) Permit](#). Workers who undertake these activities and perform any of their work indoors are eligible for a [Specified Worker \(Other\) Permit](#).

[Permit holders must stay in Victoria only for the period of work, get tested for COVID-19 as required by their specific permit, carry evidence of testing, minimise contact with others, and if travelling from an orange zone or red zone self-isolate for 14 days at their home or accommodation, and abide by existing directions.](#)

[Exemptions and exceptions](#)

Reasons for an exemption may include:

- to attend a funeral
- to attend an end of life event
- if a person owns or has responsibilities in relation to an animal, to meet obligations to sustain the life and wellbeing of that animal
- to return to the person's ordinary place of residence for health, wellbeing, care or compassionate reasons or
- to effect an emergency relocation.

Exceptions exist on various limited grounds, **including** for people who need to enter Victoria to provide, receive or accompany a dependant who is to receive emergency or essential medical care or other urgent care.

Please find attached a creative stakeholder pack regarding red zones for NSW and ACT to share with your networks.

Thank you for helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Regards,

Julie Reid
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Local Government Victoria

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