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**

**Executive Director**

**Local Government Victoria**

Authorised by Emily Phillips, Deputy Secretary
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