

# BULLETIN

## All Members



Reference No: hot spots/mm-07-20

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### Restricted Postcode advice for VACC members

**\*\*\*This is not legal advice \*\*\***

VACC supports the practice of responsible community behaviours and remain firmly aligned with the edicts put forward in the Victorian Deputy Chief Health Officers directions released on 30 June that announce new restrictions on community and business in defined northern and western suburbs of Melbourne. The restrictions are aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 emanating from postcodes defined as COVID-19 restricted postcodes.

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [provides detailed direction](#) of community and business protocols that must followed for community and businesses interacting within the identified restricted postcodes. In summary the DHHS website advises that:

**Travel - You should plan your trip so that you don't need to stop in an impacted area unless it is for one of the four reasons:**

- Shopping for food or other necessary goods or services
- To provide care giving, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
- For exercise (outdoor exercise only, with only one other person or members of your household)
- Work or study, if you cannot work or study from home.

**If you live in a restricted postcode - From 1 July, the restrictions will not prevent you from leaving your area. However, if you live in a restricted postcode, you are required to stay at home except for four reasons**

- shopping for necessary goods or services,
- to provide care giving, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment,
- exercise, and
- work and study if you cannot work or study from home.

**If you live in a restricted postcode - can tradespeople come into my home?**

Tradespeople are able to visit your home if required. As always, minimise physical contact where possible, including paying with a direct bank transfer or contactless payment.

**Additional restrictions have also been put in place:**

- you cannot have visitors to your home except for caregiving or compassionate reasons or receiving services.
- you can no longer visit friends and family who live at another household, except for caregiving or compassionate reasons or providing services.
- you cannot travel except for one of the four reasons outlined above.

## Directions issued by the Deputy Chief Health Officer

The Victorian Deputy Chief Health Officer, Dr Annaliese van Diemen, released the 'Restricted Activity Directions (Restricted Postcodes) on 30 June that came into effect from 1 July 2020. You can view the Restricted Activity Directions (Restricted Postcodes) announcement by talking this [link](#).

### I draw your attention to:

- Section 9 (8) of the Restricted Activity Directions (Restricted Postcodes) that refers to the opening of retail facility with protocols for density quotients, signage and cleaning requirements.
- Section 15(1) & 15(2) that refer to signage, record keeping and cleaning requirements, and;
- Section 17 (43) that provides a definition of a retail facility.

## Advice from the Office of the Minister for Police, The Hon Lisa Neville MP from April 2020

VACC had previously forwarded correspondence stating industry concern regarding the confused messaging from Victoria Police to the Office of the Minister for Police, The Hon Lisa Neville MP.

VACC acknowledges Victoria Police are in a difficult position when dealing with recalcitrant community behaviour regarding COVID 19 and the continued increase in confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses.

VACC was provided with advice from the Office of the Minister for Police that states:

*VACC is correct in that the automotive trade is not being prohibited from work or opening, so staff can work, and customers engage as appropriate and consistent with the CHO requirements around density quotients and physical distancing.*

*Accordingly, the Office of the Minister for Police has provided VACC's correspondence to the Chief Commissioner's office to ensure it informs the ongoing messaging to police members during this time.*

*In addition, police officers are not meant to be stopping people from travelling for work or restricting trade of businesses that can and should remain open as long as they are maintaining density quotients and physical distancing.*

It is VACC's view that this advice is still current.

## What should you do with this bulletin?

VACC would encourage you to print a copy of this bulletin, provide a copy to each of your staff members. Staff should produce this document to any law enforcement agency that is querying your businesses operational status or for when staff are legitimately travelling to and from work.

VACC would also encourage you to provide a copy of this bulletin to each of your consumers who is on your respective data bases or who is booked in for a service or repair during the COVID-19 crisis.

VACC reminds all members regarding the requirements around density quotients and physical distancing.

## Further advice on staff and COVID-19 issues

VACC urges members to reach out to VACC Industrial Relations and OHSE on 03 9829 1111 for any further queries relating to staff, safety or environmental issues.

**Geoff Gwilym**

Chief Executive Officer