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Issue 34.0

1. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Training Workers to Keep Victorians Safe

Workers across the state will receive free accredited training to help manage the ongoing risk of coronavirus infection in workplaces and keep the state open for business.

Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education, Gayle Tierney, recently announced up to \$10 million in funding to boost Victoria's economic recovery through a national infection control skill set project, in partnership with the Commonwealth.

The project will deliver free short courses to workers in customer-facing roles, intended to help keep the community safe and will support businesses to reopen and help workers maintain their own safety, identify hazards and infection risks, and stop the spread of coronavirus.

For more on this announcement, [click here](#).

Minister for Roads announces package to keep Victorians moving during Coronavirus

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll yesterday unveiled a \$340 million package of measures intended to make it easier for people and freight to get around by roads.

The number of people making trips on Melbourne's roads each day is increasing, with road traffic now only 17 per cent below normal levels, while passenger numbers on public transport are 71 per cent less than the same time last year.

To directly address the issue, the Victorian Government have announced direct traffic interventions by tasking more response crews and traffic engineers with tackling congestion hotspots, incidents and blockages on the network.

Some of the specific measures being taken include almost 700 CCTV cameras to be installed to identify bottlenecks, more than 200 wireless travel time sensors, and 40 new visual message boards to put live traffic data in the hands of traffic management centre and drivers.

Six extra incident response crews and dozens more specialist traffic engineers will be hired to keep roads moving around the clock.

Read the full media release from the Minister for Roads [here](#).

2. INDUSTRY RELATIONS

My Business Health available to support the reopening of small businesses.

Small businesses emerging from hibernation and ready to make the most of easing COVID restrictions can find the required information on ASBFEO's My Business Health web portal.

The Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Kate Carnell, says the My Business Health web portal now features important information for small business owners ready to re-open or ramp up their operations.

My Business Health is a 'one-stop-shop' for state specific information on current restrictions and COVID-Safe Plans.

The resource includes links to relevant posters and signage for workplaces along with safe workplace checklists, information on grants available to re-opening small businesses, and information on visitor contact tracing apps such as GuestTrack.

My Business Health also connects users to leading mental health organisations' resources, such as [Beyond Blue's dedicated coronavirus mental health support service](#) and [Ahead for Business](#).

In addition, [Beyond Blue's Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service](#) is now live at coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au.

[Read more.](#)

3. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Significant spike in Victorian case numbers

Victoria has recorded almost 100 new cases of COVID-19 infections in a testing blitz conducted over the weekend, after 40,000 people were subjected to testing across suburban hotspots.

Authorities are said to be considering reinstating strict lockdown measures on suburbs identified as hotspots, however Premier Daniel Andrews has said he will not make a decision until the testing blitz is completed. This blitz comes a week after a number of Victoria's Covid-19 restrictions were reversed in response to the rise in confirmed active cases.

Members can [click here for more info](#) on the spike in cases.

Increase in COVID-19 Testing sites in Victoria

As coronavirus cases back rise in Victoria, including many linked to community transmission, the state has seen a sudden spike in demand for testing.

As a result, large testing sites in major shopping centres in Melbourne has seen significant delays, so authorities are encouraging people to look elsewhere for the time being.

Health Minister Jenny Mikakos is urging people to go to public health services, or to check if local GPs are offering testing as well.

The best way to find a testing centre near you is to use the [Department of Health and Human Services' coronavirus testing site map](#), which shows all testing sites, including:

- GP respiratory clinics
- Victorian hospital respiratory clinics
- Community Health Centre respiratory clinics
- Regional walk-through clinics
- Pathology centres (which will require a GP referral)
- Drive-through facilities

To learn more on the requirements and opportunities to get tested, [click here](#).

4. PREVIOUS UPDATE ISSUES

You can read previous Updates of COVID-19 [HERE](#).

Geoff Gwilym
Chief Executive Officer

Disclaimer: *The information gathered has been drawn from a number of sources and VACC strongly recommends that members revert to the primary source of information for any clarification.*