

Victorian Premier announces a 'modest easing of restrictions' from 11:59pm tomorrow

The Victorian Premier yesterday [announced](#) a 'modest easing of restrictions' from 11:59pm tomorrow, **28 September 2021**, when Victoria reaches the **80 percent first dose vaccination target** – the first target on its '[roadmap](#)' outlined in our previous [Bulletin](#).

The Chief Health Officer has also advised that the **City of Greater Geelong** and **Surf Coast Shire** both exited lockdown and returned to the restriction settings of **Regional Victoria** from **11:59pm last night**, whilst **Mitchell Shire** remains in lockdown – being the same restrictions that apply in **Metropolitan Melbourne**, excluding the curfew.

Accordingly, within **Metropolitan Melbourne (and Mitchell Shire)**, the reasons for people to leave their home remain unchanged:

- getting necessary goods or services
- care or other compassionate reasons
- exercise (which will increase to 4 hours per day), and which will be expanded to include outdoor social interaction
- authorised work and permitted education if it can't be done from home
- to get vaccinated at the nearest possible location (and other specified reasons).

The travel limit on exercise and accessing necessary goods or services will however increase from 10 kilometres to **15 kilometres from home** – or the closest location (if not within the fifteen kilometre radius).

As part of the announcement, the Victorian Premier released an updated [Table of Restrictions](#) providing further detail on the changes.

Members are reminded that the following automotive industry businesses can continue to operate under current COVIDSafe settings within **Metropolitan Melbourne (and Mitchell Shire)** as **authorised providers and workers**:

- Petrol stations, including a petrol station that sells groceries
- Vehicle and mechanical repair services
- Contactless 'Click and collect/deliver' services
- Emergency repair workers
- Roadside assistance services
- Ancillary and support businesses, where necessary for the operations of an authorised provider
- Administrative services provided by an employer to enable its employees to work from home – e.g. payroll and IT services
- Truck stops and roadhouses, but not the provision of seated dining or shower facilities to persons who are not transport, freight or logistics drivers.

For **Regional Victoria** (with exception of Mitchell Shire), all automotive businesses are able to operate subject to the COVIDSafe settings below.

Work Permits

Authorised workers continue to be required to **carry permits** when working, and when travelling for work, in **Metropolitan Melbourne (and Mitchell Shire)**. Work permits are no longer a requirement in Regional Victoria.

Face masks

Face masks must be carried at all times and **worn indoors and outdoors** except if at home, or when visiting an intimate partner's place of residence or if an exemption applies. This continues to apply in **Regional Victoria**, with an express requirement that **masks remain mandatory and cannot be removed for eating/drinking in retail facilities**.

Density quotients

For workplaces in **Regional Victoria**, and those authorised to remain open in Metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire density quotients in shared spaces and publicly accessible areas at the work premises are **1 person per 4 square metres**, subject to the following:

- **Food and drink facilities (e.g. roadhouses) in Regional Victoria** – open for seated service only with maximum of **30 outdoors** and 10 indoors, subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres. Food courts open for takeaway service only.
- **Office work environment in Regional Victoria** – 25 per cent or up to 10 people if total workplace is 40 people or less, subject to a density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres.

QR Code Requirements

The electronic record keeping requirements through **Victorian Government QR Code Service** continue to apply for those businesses that are eligible to continue operating. The requirement to make reasonable efforts to ensure people check-in and to prominently display QR Code signage at each entrance remains unchanged.

COVIDSafe Plan

COVIDSafe Plans are mandatory for **all** Victorian workplaces. VACC recommends that COVIDSafe Plans should be reviewed to ensure it remains current and that cleaning, signage, record-keeping and other applicable requirements are being adhered to and communicated with all relevant staff. Members are encouraged to contact the VACC OHSE Unit for any further information or assistance, including in relation to their [COVIDSafe Plan obligations](#) on 03 9829 1265.

Members considering introducing other COVID-19 related safety measures that go above and beyond their COVIDSafe Plans are encouraged in the first instance to contact the VACC OHSE Unit on 03 9829 1265 for further advice and assistance.

What financial support is available to affected businesses?

Members are reminded that the **COVIDSafe Deep Cleaning Rebate** is available for small and medium-sized businesses to help cover the cost of a **'deep clean'** or **'contamination clean'** required at their premises or worksite. The rebate covers **up to 80 percent** of the cleaning costs of the worksite, capped at a grant of \$10,000. More information is available [here](#).

Members can access further information on other current government-funded initiatives [here](#).

VACC will continue to keep members advised of developments. Members needing further advice or assistance are encouraged to contact VACC's Workplace Relations team on 03 9829 1123.

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