

New Pandemic Orders issued by Victorian Minister for Health

Further to our last [Bulletin](#), new Pandemic Orders made by the Minister for Health to give effect to the significant easing of COVIDSafe Settings announced last week became operative from **11:59pm 22 April 2022** – with a common expiry date of **11:59pm 22 July 2022**.

For the **automotive industry**, the **new Pandemic Orders** confirm that:

- **Close contacts** of persons positive to COVID-19, will **no longer have to self-quarantine and can go to work** – provided they **notify the employer** within 24 hours of becoming a close contact, **wear a mask indoors**, avoid sensitive settings (i.e. hospitals or care facilities) and undertake **five negative rapid antigen tests** over the seven days (that would previously have been the self-quarantine period). **Positive COVID-19 cases will still be required to self-isolate at home for 7 days**
- Masks will **no longer** be required in **retail** and **food and drink** settings
- Persons are **exempt from testing or quarantine for 12 weeks** if they have had COVID-19 – an increase from 8 weeks
- Vaccination requirements of **customers** attending **food and drink premises** will no longer apply
- The requirement for staff and patrons of **food and drink premises** to check-in using the Service Victoria app, maintain attendance records, or a check-in marshal will no longer apply
- Individuals will be required to notify their workplace contacts, in addition to informing their social contacts. Workplaces will **no longer** have to individually identify and notify each potentially exposed worker

It is important to note that there is no change to the existing requirements for COVIDSafe Plans and vaccination mandates for workers.

Members can access the new Pandemic Orders below:

- [Pandemic \(Workplace\) Order 2022 \(No. 8\)](#)
- [Pandemic \(Quarantine Isolation and Testing\) Order 2022 \(No. 8\)](#)
- [Pandemic \(Public Safety\) Order 2022](#)

Members should also note that the **new Workplace Order has been expanded to incorporate (and replace) a number of previous Pandemic Orders**, including the *Pandemic COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (General Workers) Order 2022 (No. 4)*, *Pandemic COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Specified Workers) Order 2022 (No. 6)*, *Pandemic (Open Premises) Order 2022 (No. 6)*, and *Pandemic (Additional Industry Obligations) Order (No. 10)*.

Similarly, the **new Public Safety Order** effectively incorporates and replaces the previous *Pandemic (Movement and Gathering) Order 2022 (No. 5)* and *Pandemic (Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities) Order 2022 (No 5)*.

Members can access a summary of current COVID-19 testing, isolation and notification requirement FAQs [here](#).

Members are reminded that the COVIDSetting requirements of **COVIDSafe Plans** and **record-keeping (e.g. vaccination status of specified workers)** remain in effect.

As previously noted, **Authorised Officers are continuing random audits** on businesses throughout Victoria. Businesses who are unable to demonstrate their compliance (e.g. completed COVIDSafe Plan and/or vaccination status register of relevant employees, including working directors) for inspection on request, face an **on-the-spot fine** of up to **\$10,904** or up to **\$21,809** for serious offences. VACC encourages members to contact the **VACC OHSE Unit on 03 9829 1265** should they require any assistance.

VACC will continue to engage with Victorian Government officials and will keep members advised of developments. In the interim, members seeking further information are encouraged to contact VACC's Workplace Relations team on 03 9829 1123 or ir@vacc.com.au.

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