

Updated Pandemic Orders Released Confirming Reduction in COVID-19 Self-Isolation Period

Further to the decisions of the National Cabinet on 31 August 2022 and the Victorian Health Minister's recent [announcement](#), updated **Pandemic Orders** became operative from **11:59pm on Thursday 8 September 2022** confirming that the **self-isolation period has been reduced to five days for positive COVID-19 cases who do not have symptoms on day five** of their isolation. This change does not apply to people who work in high-risk settings, including hospitals, residential aged care facilities, disability care facilities or in-home care premises. The nominal expiry date of the updated Pandemic Orders is 12 October 2022.

For the automotive industry, the changes means that workers who test positive to COVID-19 on a PCR test (i.e. a diagnosed person) or on a Rapid Antigen Test (i.e. a probable case) can leave self-isolation and return to work:

- on the **fifth day** from the date on which they undertook their positive PCR test / Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) if they have **no symptoms** on the fifth day; or
- on the **sixth day** from the date on which they undertook their positive PCR test / RAT if their **symptoms cease** on the sixth day; or
- on the **seventh day** from the date on which they undertook their positive PCR test / RAT.

Workers must notify the workplace that they have completed isolation before attending work on-site. It is also recommended that people leaving isolation after five days undertake RATs in the days following their isolation and test negative before attending their workplace and wear a face mask in indoor settings outside the home.

There is **no change** to the isolation requirements of **close contacts**, who can continue to leave home each day, provided they continue to test negative on RATs.

Members are reminded to ensure that their **COVIDSafe Plans** remain current with a copy held at the premises, and continue to consult with workers on the requirements that apply in the workplace. Members seeking further advice regarding the implementation of control measures and/or assistance in updating their COVIDSafe Plans are encouraged to contact the **VACC OHSE Unit on 03 9829 1265** should they require any assistance.

Members can access a summary of current COVID-19 testing, isolation and notification requirement FAQs [here](#) and can access the new Pandemic Orders below:

- [*Pandemic \(Quarantine Isolation and Testing\) Order 2022 \(No. 11\)*](#)
- [*Pandemic \(Public Safety\) Order 2022 \(No. 4\)*](#)

Members seeking further advice or assistance are encouraged to contact VACC's Workplace Relations team on 03 9829 1123 or ir@vacc.com.au.

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