

Reference No: circuit breaker lockdown/dh-2-21

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Victorian 5-day 'Circuit Breaker' Lockdown – 11:59pm Friday, 12 February – 11:59pm Wednesday, 17 February

The Victorian Premier has today released a [Statement](#) announcing a 5-day 'circuit breaker' lockdown throughout **all of Victoria commencing from 11:59pm this evening until 11:59pm Wednesday, 17 February 2021**. Under the 'circuit breaker' lockdown, there will be four reasons for people to leave their home: shopping for things that are needed, care and caregiving, exercise and work, **if it is essential**. Exercise and shopping will be limited to **five kilometres from home** – or the closest one (if not within the five kilometre radius). Members will note that this is broadly in line with the Stage 4 restrictions that applied last year in Melbourne.

Under the [Table of Restrictions](#) released with the Premier's Statement, the following automotive industry business can continue to operate through this lockdown as **essential providers and workers**:

- Petrol stations, including a petrol station that sells groceries
- Vehicle and mechanical repair services, including 'log book' servicing
- 'Click and collect/deliver' services
- Emergency repair workers
- Roadside assistance services
- 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.

COVIDSafe Requirements

Members should also note that with the exception of face coverings now being required both **indoors and outdoors**, COVIDSafe Workplace Requirements outlined in our previous [OHSE Bulletin](#) continue to apply, including physical distancing, record keeping, cleaning and density requirements.

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.

Are Worker Permits required?

Premier Andrews has advised that a permit system (such as applied under last year's Stage 4 restrictions) would take too long to set up and that a 'common sense approach' would apply instead.

With regard to regional border-communities, at the time of writing, there is no border closure between New South Wales and Victoria. However, whilst not currently mandatory, VACC encourages employers in border-communities to strongly consider providing employees with a Worker Permit to minimize issues that may arise with employees crossing the border for work. To assist, VACC has updated a Worker Permit template that can be accessed [here](#).

VACC will continue to update members of any changes.

Can I stand down employees?

Members who are unable to operate as a result of the 'circuit breaker' lockdown, are advised to

consult with affected employees about taking paid annual leave or unpaid leave during this period. Where agreement is reached, a written record of the employee's request to take leave should be kept. If agreement is unable to be reached, the employer is entitled to stand down the employee without pay.

Members considering stand down an employee should contact our Industrial Relations experts on 03 9829 1123 or ir@vacc.com.au for further advice and assistance.

Can I be fined?

On-the-spot fines of up to \$1,652 (for individuals) and up to \$9,913 (for businesses) still apply for anyone who breaches COVID-19 restrictions.

Members needing further advice or assistance, **including regional members who may be less familiar with operating under this level of restriction**, are encouraged to contact VACC's Workplace Relations team on 03 9829 1123 or ir@vacc.com.au.

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