

Victorian Minister for Health announces further easing of COVIDSafe Settings

The Minister for Health, Martin Foley, has [announced](#) a further easing of COVIDSafe settings in the State of Victoria that will take effect from **11.59pm Friday 24 June 2022**.

From 11.59pm Friday 24 June the following changes to the Pandemic Orders come into effect:

- **Masks must still be worn** on public transport, taxis, ride shares, and planes, but will no longer be required at airports. Masks are also still required in sensitive settings such as hospitals and care facilities.
- **Positive cases must still isolate for seven days from the day they took their test** but may now leave home to drive a household member directly to or from education or work without leaving their vehicle. They can also leave home to get medical care, a COVID-19 test, or in an emergency, including the risk of harm.
- **Three COVID-19 vaccine doses are still required for workers in residential aged care and disability care, healthcare, and custodial and emergency services, including police.**
- Government imposed **third dose mandates in education, food distribution, meat and seafood processing and quarantine accommodation sectors will be lifted.**
- Rules requiring **general workers** (e.g. office workers) to work from home unless they are double-vaccinated **will be lifted**. Employers can consider setting COVID-19 vaccination policies as part of their own workplace conditions.
- **Visitor caps to care facilities, including residential aged care and disability are removed.** Residents can see any number of people, provided they test negative on a rapid antigen test that day. If a test is unavailable, a person can only be present for limited reasons such as end-of-life visits. Centres may introduce their own visitor rules to respond to local risk.

It is important to note that no change has been announced to the existing requirements for COVIDSafe Plans and vaccination mandates for specified workers (e.g. repair and maintenance workers, retail workers).

VACC will provide a further update once the new pandemic orders have been released and reviewed in detail, **including a revised Frequently Asked Questions document.**

As noted in the Victorian Government's announcement, the lifting of the double-vaccination requirement for general workers suggests that COVID-19 vaccination policies will increasingly be left for employers to determine.

Members are advised that the issue of voluntarily introducing mandatory workplace COVID-19 vaccinations is a vexed one, requiring appropriate **consultation** with employees and a consideration of the **particular risk factors** that apply in the workplace prior to any implementation.

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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