

Victorian Premier announces an easing of restrictions from 11:59pm 21 October 2021

The Victorian Premier yesterday [announced](#) that an easing of restrictions will occur from **11:59pm on 21 October 2021**, as the **70 per cent double dose** vaccination target in Victoria's '[roadmap](#)' is reached ahead of schedule. The announcement confirmed that in **Metropolitan Melbourne**, the **curfew and 15km travel radius will be lifted** (although travel between Regional Victoria and Metropolitan Melbourne will only be allowed for permitted reasons). The current **working from home settings will remain**, with those authorised to work under the **COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions** required to have at least one dose of the vaccine in order to work on site (unless an exemption applies).

Metropolitan Melbourne

The updated [Roadmap for Metropolitan Melbourne](#), provides that the following automotive industry businesses can operate subject to COVIDSafe settings below:

- Petrol stations, including a petrol station that sells groceries
- Vehicle and mechanical repair services
- Retail facilities - contactless 'Click and collect/deliver' services and **from 11:59pm on 21 October 2021 - outdoor service**
- Retail workers working in or in connection with an authorised retail facility or a wholesale or distribution facility
- Roadside assistance services
- Car washing services
- Food and drink facilities
- Manufacturing machinery and equipment manufacturing, including parts
- Manufacturing whole or partial products
- Truck stops and roadhouses, but not the provision of seated dining or shower facilities to persons who are not transport, freight or logistics drivers.

Regional Victoria

Under the updated [Roadmap for Regional Victoria](#), all automotive businesses are able to operate subject to the COVIDSafe settings below.

COVIDSafe Settings

Work Permits

The updated Roadmap for **Metropolitan Melbourne** confirms that the current Authorised Provider and Authorised Worker List that currently apply in Metropolitan Melbourne will be '**dissolved**' at the **70% fully vaccinated** level stage. This means that the Authorised Worker permit requirements will **no longer apply from 11:59pm on 21 October 2021**.

Members should note however, that the vaccination status requirements for workers covered by the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions continue to apply.

Face masks

Face masks must be carried at all times and **worn indoors and outdoors** throughout Victoria 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** density quotients in shared spaces and publicly accessible areas at the work premises from **11:59pm 21 October 2021** are **1 person per 4 square metres (DQ4)**, subject to the following:

- **Food and drink facilities – in Metropolitan Melbourne:** open for seated service only with maximum of **50 outdoors and 20 indoors (DQ4)** where **customers and staff are fully vaccinated**, otherwise open for **takeaway only**. In **Regional Victoria:** open for seated service only with maximum of **100 outdoors (DQ2)** and **30 indoors (DQ4)** where **customers and staff are fully vaccinated**, otherwise maximum of **30 outdoors and 10 indoors (DQ4)**. 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 throughout Victoria. 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.

VACC will provide a further update once the Directions giving effect to the Victorian Premier's announcement have been issued.

Further update to COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions issued

Further to our last [Bulletin](#), members should also note that the [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Workers\) Directions \(No 3\)](#) was issued by the Chief Health Officer at **11:59pm, 15 October 2021**.

We bring to members' attention that whilst there has been no substantive change as it relates to the automotive industry, members should however ensure that any correspondence that they issue in future to workers are **updated to reflect the latest version of the Directions**. VACC have updated the references in the [Consultation Template](#) and [Confirmation of Termination Template](#) accordingly.

Members are reminded that they are strongly encouraged to seek member-specific advice and assistance from the IR Department before actioning the above (including how to facilitative vaccination exempted employees working at the workplace), to ensure that the written correspondence provided to an employee reflects the consultation process that has occurred – and that it is undertaken in a lawful and procedurally fair manner.

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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