

Victorian Premier announces a further easing of restrictions from 11:59pm tonight

The Victorian Premier has today [announced](#) that a further significant easing of restrictions will occur from **11:59pm tonight, Thursday 18 November 2021** as the **90 per cent (12 years and over) double dose** vaccination target is reached in line with Phase D of the National Plan. Also released by the Victorian Premier following his announcement, was an updated [Restrictions Summary](#).

A summary of the key parts of the announcement and Restrictions Summary for members is provided below:

- **Non-essential retail settings** [e.g. vehicle dealerships, auto parts retailers, car rentals] across Victoria will from 11:59pm tonight, only be open to Victorians who are fully vaccinated, under 12 years and two months, or have a valid exemption. This includes workers at those premises.
- From this coming weekend, there will be **no capacity limits or density limits** for food and drink facilities – i.e. **cafes and restaurants**
- The **requirement to wear face masks indoors will be loosened** from 11:59pm tonight but will continue to apply to workers serving the public at food and drink facilities, and for workers and customers at indoor retail premises – with the requirement for customers for retail, likely to be removed after 15 December 2021.
- **Capacity limits, density limits and mask requirements will remain** for a number of other premises (e.g. essential retail), **if the vaccination status of attendees is not being checked.**
- **Self-quarantine obligations will be reduced from 11:59pm tonight:**
 - **Double vaccinated** people who come into contact with a positive COVID-19 case outside their home will not have to self-quarantine. They will only need to get a PCR test and isolate until they get a negative result.
 - **Positive COVID-19 cases** will need to notify their workplace upon receiving their result – with the workplace then required to identify and notify employees and contractors (not customers) who were exposed and advise them to get tested.
 - **Positive COVID-19 cases** will be required to isolate for 10 days (instead of the current 14 days) – and will need to show a negative PCR test result to return to work.
 - **Workplace contacts** presenting for a PCR test will also be offered a government funded rapid antigen test. However, they will need to show a negative PCR test result prior to returning to work.
 - **Household contacts** who have had more than four hours contact with a case inside a household, accommodation or care setting must isolate for 7 days if fully vaccinated or 14 days if not fully vaccinated, with a PCR test required on Day 0 and on release.

- The changes will effectively mean the **end of mandatory deep cleaning and the current DHHS 'clearance' process**. Businesses will self-manage their exposure in line with public health guidance – and will still be required to operate in accordance with their COVIDSafe plan.

VACC will provide a further update tomorrow once the various public health Directions giving effect to the announcement have been released.

In the interim, 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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