

BULLETIN

Occupational Health, Safety and Environment



Reference No: COVID Update/dh-2-21

Date issued: 26/02/2021

Update: Victoria to return to previous COVIDSafe settings at 11:59pm tonight

The Victorian Premier has today confirmed in a [Statement](#) that Victoria will return to its previous COVIDSafe settings from tonight. From 11:59pm tonight, whilst a face covering must still be carried with you when leaving home – they are only required to be worn on public transport, while in taxis or ride share vehicles, and at large retail venues.

Members should note that in relation to large retail venues, a face covering must be worn while in an indoor space at a retail facility where the total of all indoor spaces accessible to members of the public is 2,000 square metres or more.

As was the case when these COVIDSafe settings were in place previously, **whilst wearing a face covering at work will no longer be mandatory for most members** (i.e. unless operating a large retail venue), VACC continues to **recommend** that wherever practicable, face masks continue to be worn in the workplace, particularly indoors where ventilation is poor and where it is not possible to keep **1.5 metres distance** from other people – and whilst cleaning inside customer vehicles.

Workers may be required to attend onsite as required. For office-based work premises, the onsite office work cap will be increased from 50% to 75% of a workforce onsite (for both private and public sectors) – provided that where fewer than 40 workers ordinarily work at the premises at one time, VACC understands that up to 30 workers at the premises at one time will apply. **Note:** the cap only applies to office-based work premises.

Record Keeping and Density Requirements

Members should also note that the record-keeping obligations remain for all workers and visitors who attend the Work Premises for **longer than 15 minutes**; and that density requirements also remain for both shared spaces (such as lunchrooms) and publicly accessible areas at the Work Premises to **1 person every 2 square metres**.

VACC recommends that employers take the time to familiarise themselves with the new level of restrictions and **review and update their COVIDSafe Plans** accordingly. Consultation on any changes to workplace requirements or updated COVIDSafe Plans must take place with all affected staff.

Members are encouraged to contact the VACC OHSE Unit for further information or assistance with their COVIDSafe Plans on 03 9829 1265.

Daniel Hodges
Executive Manager – Workplace Relations
Industrial Relations OHSE Department