

# Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

27 February 2021

## Ports of Entry - Maritime

The ports sector has played an important role in operating in a COVID-19 Safe manner while ensuring the continued flow of critical goods to support the Victorian community.

From 11:59pm on Sunday 6 December 2020, Victoria moved to COVIDSafe Summer restrictions.

These restrictions will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure they reflect current public health advice.

All Victorian businesses must have a completed [COVIDSafe Plan](#) for each workplace to continue operating.

Employers are obliged to ensure that workplace bubbles are established and adhered to at Ports of Entry and aim to reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of people who come into contact with one another.

## Ports of Entry workers – COVID-19 testing scope and frequency

From 11:59pm on Friday 26 February 2021 the [Workplace \(Additional Industry Obligations\) Directions \(No. 18\)](#) came into force. The Directions maintain the additional measures to be implemented in ports of entry workplaces for the safety of workers who interact with international arrivals including ships and aircraft. The definition of ports of entry worker is updated to add 'international' before passengers and crew; exclude interactions with people from Green Zone Countries; and introduce an explanatory note about interactions with the environment.

(16) A port of entry worker means:

(a) any airport or maritime port worker who has direct contact (including occasional contact or interactions) with international passengers or crew (excluding international passengers and crew entering Victoria from a Green Zone Country), at the international port of entry; or

(b) a worker or person who interacts with the environment within the international port of entry (including any worker or person who boards a vessel, ship or aircraft) where international passengers and crew (excluding international passengers and crew entering Victoria from a Green Zone Country) are or have been.

*Note: interacting with the 'environment' within the international port of entry refers to handling items and/or using or being in communal facilities (such as toilets, waiting areas and seating) that have been used by or are being used by international passengers and crew (excluding international passengers and crew entering Victoria from a Green Zone Country). It also refers to boarding or entering a vessel, ship or aircraft where international passengers and crew (excluding international passengers and crew entering Victoria from a Green Zone Country) are or have been.*

## Surveillance COVID-19 testing for port workers

The requirement for surveillance COVID-19 testing only applies to those workers who meet the definition of a ports of entry worker under the *Directions*.

The *Directions* refer to the [Surveillance Testing Industry List](#) which specifies workers required to undertake surveillance testing.

Surveillance testing is required once each week as follows:

- A person who interacts with multiple crews/ships each day requires testing once per week.
- If workers only occasionally interact with crews or ships, they still need to be tested weekly, up to 14 days from the last interaction.
- There are no specific days on which workers must get tested (e.g. days 7 and 14). Testing can occur on any day within the first week, as long as every subsequent test is no more than seven days after this.

The [Ports of Entry \(airports and maritime\) sector guidance page](#) contains resources including testing options at each port and information sheets for employers and workers on safety and testing information for maritime ports.

## Where can port workers get tested for COVID-19 in Victoria?

The Department of Transport (DoT) is working with the Department of Health (DH) and port employers to ensure that workers in scope for COVID-19 testing at commercial ports know where they can be tested in order to meet the requirements for surveillance testing.

The DH through a private pathology provider is providing testing at the ports with four testing sites opened during the week commencing Monday 1 March:

- **Port of Melbourne** (7.00am – 7.00pm, Monday - Sunday)  
Appleton Dock Substation/Workshop (Appleton Dock Road and/or Enterprise Road)
- **Port of Geelong** (7.00am – 7.00pm, Monday - Sunday)  
Lascelles Wharf, The Esplanade, North Shore
- **Port of Portland** (9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday)  
Main Breakwater Rd, Portland
- **Port Hastings** (9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday)  
1d Stony Point Rd, Crib Point, Tug & Amenities Office (adjacent to the main building).

The DH will monitor the demand at local testing sites and may adjust operating hours and the number of testing staff to meet this demand.

There are no costs to industry for surveillance testing.

In addition, ports workers can still be tested at the other (175) fixed testing sites in Victoria. To find your nearest testing location visit the DHHS [‘Where to get tested’](#) webpage.

If attending another testing site, people being tested should identify as a maritime worker and keep the notification message.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-out

Implementation of the Australian Government’s COVID-19 vaccination program started in Victoria on 22 February 2021. Read more about [the program that is underway](#).

During the vaccine roll out it is critical that we all continue to be [COVIDsafe](#).

COVID-19 vaccines will be available in phases, as defined by the Australian Government’s schedule, with the Australian Government prioritising groups based on expert medical and public health advice.

This program commences with the priority groups in phase 1a of the national vaccine rollout. Read more about [the national prioritisation process](#).

People eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine as part of Phase 1a include:

- quarantine and border workers and all staff working in the hotel quarantine program
- frontline healthcare workers including hospital staff, and
- aged care and disability care staff and residents.

The COVID-19 vaccine will not be compulsory.

The DH appreciates your patience as it rolls out the immunisation program. If you have any queries related to the COVID-19 vaccine please contact [COVIDVaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:COVIDVaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Autumn Disruptions: Changes today, better transport tomorrow

As part of Victoria's Big Build, works are continuing on the state's biggest [roads](#) and [public transport](#) projects. This includes:

### Metropolitan areas

- Monash and Princes Freeways (March to May): Adding 36km of extra lanes to make it safer and easier to travel around Melbourne.
- West Gate Freeway (March to May): Rebuilding the southbound bridge and expanding the freeway.
- Sunbury Line (April and May): Upgrading the track, power and platforms for more modern trains.
- Pakenham (March), Craigieburn (May), Werribee (late April) and Mernda (May) lines: Works continue to remove 20 dangerous and congested level crossings, with the Cherry Street level crossing gone by the end of autumn.
- Cranbourne Line (March): Laying 8km of additional track to allow more trains to run, and
- Tram track renewal and overhead maintenance will take place at Spencer Street and La Trobe Streets (April) in the CBD and along Plenty Road, Preston (May) to deliver a smoother ride on Routes 86, 30, and 35.

### Regional areas

- Upgrades to the Geelong (May) and Warrnambool lines (April) as part of the Regional Rail Revival program to deliver more frequent and reliable train services will begin.
- Critical maintenance will take place on the Gippsland (March), Ballarat (April) and Shepparton (April) lines.

Be sure to plan ahead and allow extra time when you travel. For more information, please visit:

- [Victoria's Big Build](#) – for major projects information and updates.
- [PTV](#) – for public transport service changes and journey planning tools.
- [VicRoads](#) – for updates on major road network changes and travel advice.

### For more information

Freight Victoria in the DoT is the central point of contact for Victorian Government industry information.

Further enquiries should be directed to [freightvictoria@transport.vic.gov.au](mailto:freightvictoria@transport.vic.gov.au)

This update will be sent to you monthly or as required.