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

31 December 2020

NSW border closure

From 11.59pm 1 January 2021, Victoria will close its borders to New South Wales.

Under the changes, any Victorian currently in the Green Zone will have until 11.59pm Friday 1 January 2021 to come home.

This does not include Victorians in the Blue Mountains City Council and Wollongong City Council local government areas, who must apply for a new permit and arrive before 11.59pm Thursday 31 December 2020. .

Any Victorian, regardless of where they're arriving from in New South Wales, will need to get tested and then quarantine for 14 days upon arriving in our state.

Existing provisions for freight, domestic air crews, those exiting mandatory quarantine, medical care and emergency services will remain the same.

Authorised Officers will continue to monitor arrivals at our airports, and Victoria Police officers will continue to monitor the state's borders.

For more information see: https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/statement-acting-premier-nsw-border-closure

For updates visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

No passengers in heavy vehicles entering from NSW

Interstate freight operators are reminded that passengers are not allowed to travel in trucks or trains unless they are freight workers (including support workers). This is a requirement of the Freight Movement Protocol, established by National Cabinet to keep freight moving across borders.

The small number of drivers found carrying passengers across borders jeopardise the support for freight movements such as 'wave-throughs' at border checkpoints. Carrying passengers is a breach of the New South Wales Border Crossing Permit Scheme Directions (No 2) and the driver may be penalised.

Where can I get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria?

Heavy vehicle drivers can be tested at around 200 testing sites across Victoria. To find your nearest testing location visit 'Where to get tested' webpage https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested

Heavy vehicle drivers can also access an asymptomatic COVID-19 test at no cost by attending a private pathology clinic across Australia, with this test included in the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

NSW Freight testing facilities will be in place until the end of January 2021, see the Transport for NSW freight hub for COVID-19 updates.

https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/freight-hub

VICTORIA State Government | Department of Transport

Wearing of masks indoors and restrictions

From 5pm tonight 31 December, the following restrictions will be in place in Victoria:

- The limit of people gathering in the home will be reduced to 15 from 30.
- Fitted masks will be mandatory indoors. If you are planning to leave your home take a mask which needs to be worn any time you are inside outside your private residence apart from when you're eating or drinking.

We all need to be COVIDSafe:

- Don't go into the city unless you have a booking
- Wear a fitted mask indoors
- Practise good hand hygiene
- If you are sick, stay at home

Health orders are in place for Ports of Entry – Maritime

Throughout 2020, the Freight and Logistics sector has demonstrated leadership in COVIDSafe practices, and its leaders and workers have been critical in supporting Australians through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Victorian Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions impose some extra obligations on a number of industries, including Ports of Entry. These will apply to the Port of Melbourne, Geelong Port, Port of Hastings and Port of Portland.

These Directions are available on the DHHS website https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/workplace-additional-industry-obligations-directions-no-14-pdf.

To support businesses operating in ports to implement these Directions, an industry guideline for ports of entry is now available, addressing both airports and ports. You can find this on the Victorian coronavirus website https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/ports-entry-services-sector-guidance.

Surveillance testing for workers in ports

One of the requirements of these Directions is surveillance COVID-19 testing for some port workers. The Surveillance Testing Industry List was published on 22 December 2020 on the DHHS website https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/surveillance-testing-industry-list-covid-19.

Surveillance testing must commence immediately. Employers of workers listed for testing should direct their staff to attend a fixed testing facility listed on the DHHS website https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19.

The requirement for surveillance COVID-19 testing applies to:

- Crews of vessels entering Australian waters, including via another Australian port. Crews of vessels are required to comply with a testing frequency of 100% of crew tested prior to or on disembarking the vessel at a port of entry.

- Maritime port workers (Australia- based) who have direct, occasional or indirect contact or interactions with passengers or crew on vessels from outside Australia and/or the environment which these passengers or crew pass through or workers who may handle potentially contaminated materials.

Maritime port workers are required to comply with a testing frequency of 100% of workforce tested once per week. Examples of Maritime port workers (Australia based) include:

- Any worker who interacts with maritime crew at the port of entry.

- Any worker or person who boards a vessel

- Any person who occupies the same enclosed space with maritime crew

- Any worker involved in transfer or transport of maritime crew

- Regulatory and welfare workers

- Cleaning and waste removal workers, and

- Hospitality and retail workers within a port (if any).

Every business that is open must have a COVIDSafe Plan

A COVIDSafe Plan is one of the ways you can help prevent and manage outbreaks of coronavirus (COVID-19) at your workplace and in your community.

Business owners in Victoria are asked to play their part in slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by developing a COVIDSafe Plan and adhering to other workplace requirements.

The Victorian Government has provided a range of resources and guidelines to support businesses to reopen safely including signs, posters and templates. https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/signs-posters-and-templates

Please stay up-to-date on the latest advice for creating a COVIDSafe workplace.

Return of local truck curfews

In March 2020, the Victorian Government lifted truck curfew restrictions across the state to allow supermarket and pharmaceutical stores to receive their goods as quickly as possible.

We will be re-establishing truck curfews for the delivery of supermarket and pharmaceutical goods beyond 31 December 2020.

The temporary removal of truck curfews was designed to make it easier for consumers to receive the essential household goods they need and to support supply chains during the coronavirus restrictions and up until the busy Christmas and New Year period is over.

In addition, the announcement reintroduces time limits on delivery vehicles parked in loading zones while they are stopped to drop-off or pick-up goods. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is continuing to monitor and enforce compliance in curfew areas.

Truck curfews determine when trucks can use certain roads and aim to strike a balance between the local community and truck operators.

Further COVID information

The coronavirus.vic.gov.au website is your home for coronavirus (COVID-19) information. Visit https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

For information about all state or territory border restrictions specific to the heavy vehicle industry please visit the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Coronavirus (COVID-19) response website https://www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/coronavirus-response

Freight Victoria in the Department of Transport is the central point of contact for Victorian Government industry information. Further enquiries should be directed to freightvictoria@transport.vic.gov.au

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