

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

8 December 2020

Current Victorian restrictions

From 11.59pm on Sunday 6 December 2020, COVIDSafe Summer restrictions are in place across Victoria and will be in place until at least the end of January 2021.

The phased return to on-site work for those who have been working from home will continue. Currently, no more than 25 per cent of a workforce can be on-site.

From 11 January 2021, the on-site workforce can increase to 50 per cent. For workplaces with less than 40 staff, then 20 people can be on-site. All workplaces require a COVIDSafe Plan.

Under the changes, masks will only be required in a limited number of places: on public transport, in rideshare vehicles and taxis, and in some retail settings including indoor shopping centres, supermarkets, department stores and indoor markets. Masks and other PPE are still required in specified high-risk industries or interactions.

While masks are no longer mandated in most circumstances, masks continue to be recommended indoors or outdoors when distancing can't be maintained.

A summary of these changes can be found at the Victorian Government's Coronavirus COVIDSafe Summer webpage <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-summer>

A State of Emergency declaration has been extended until 11.59pm on 3 January 2021.

The State of Emergency gives the Victorian Chief Health Officer additional powers to issue directions to better prevent and control the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website provides information and advice about current restriction levels <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>

Workplace Additional Industry Obligations for ports of entry

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has released Workplace Additional Industry Obligations Directions No. 14 to ensure appropriate arrangements are understood and in place at ports of entry and other specific businesses.

These directions establish additional specific obligations on employers and workers in specific industries to manage risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19).

A port of entry worker means:

- a) any airport or maritime port worker who has direct contact with passengers or crew at the international port of entry, including occasional contact or interactions, or
- b) a worker or person who interacts with the environment within the international port of entry where passengers and crew are or have been, which includes any worker or person who boards a vessel, ship or aircraft.

An Authorised Officer or inspector may conduct an inspection of a site or an inspection or audit of work records of an employer, to assess compliance.

Employers are required consult with health and safety representatives and workers to identify or assess risks to health or safety at a workplace, including adequacy of facilities for workers and to make decisions and to carry out measures to control risks to health and safety and make those required changes.

Workers are required to declare in writing at the start of each shift that they are free of coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and have not been in contact with a confirmed case in the past 14 days and are not currently required to self-isolate.

Requirements to designate a COVID Marshal and have workers working with the same group of workers do not apply to administrative support service workers, truck drivers, tugboat crew, stevedores and office workers at freight terminals.

Surveillance testing for some workers will only apply when this is specified and published in the *Surveillance Testing Industry List and Requirements* linked within the Directions.

The Directions No. 14 are available on the DHHS website - [Workplace Additional Industry Obligations Directions No. 14](#)

Major disruptions on the transport network this summer

As part of Victoria's Big Build, in December, January and February works are continuing on the state's biggest road and public transport projects. Maintenance works will also be carried out across the road and public transport networks during this time, including:

- Edgars Road will be closed over the M80 Ring Rd including all entry and exit ramps from 8pm 7 December to 21 December. Detours in place via Hume Freeway, Mahoneys Road, Dalton Road and Cooper Street.
- The Princes Freeway will be closed outbound between Princes Link Highway and Cardinia Road nightly from 8 December to 12 December and 14 December between 8pm and 6am. Detour via the Princes Highway and Cardinia Road.
- West Gate Bridge annual maintenance will be completed from 26 December 2020 to 6 January 2021. Three of the five outbound lanes will be closed, with two lanes remaining open. There will also be inbound lane closures overnight. Allow up to 60 minutes extra travel time.
- As part of the West Gate Tunnel Project works, the West Gate Freeway will be closed in both directions at Grieve Parade from 6 January to 11 January as we rebuild the southbound bridge.
- The Princes Freeway outbound entry ramp, the Geelong Road inbound exit ramp and M80 to West Gate Freeway inbound ramp will be closed from 10 January to 22 February. Allow up to 60 minutes extra travel time.
- College Crescent will be closed from 2 January to 17 January 2021 between Princes Park Drive and Swanston Street roundabout with no access across east and west corridor between Citylink and Eastern Freeway. Signed detours will be in place, please allow up to 30 minutes extra travel time.
- Maintenance works will see the closure of Bridge Road, Richmond from 3 January to 16 January 2021 to replace tram tracks and overhead wires will be taking place on Bridge Road between Church Street and Hawthorn Bridge, all intersections will be closed to traffic.
- There will also be work at the intersection of Church Street and Bridge Road from 7 January to 12 January. Signed detours will be in place, via Swan Street and Victoria Street.
- As part of the Mordialloc Freeway Project works, the Thames Promenade and Wells Road roundabout closed from 2 January to 27 January. Signed detours in place via the Mornington Peninsula Freeway and Springvale/Edithvale roads.
- As part of the Level Crossing Removal Project, Clyde Road will be closed in both directions at the level crossing on the Pakenham Line. Detour via Princes Freeway and Princes Highway.

For more information on these disruptions, visit:

- Victoria's Big Build webpage <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions/majorworks> for a detailed list of disruptions
- PTV disruptions webpage <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/disruptions/major-works-this-summer> for public transport service changes and journey planning tools
- VicRoads disruptions webpage <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/disruptions> for updates on major road network changes and travel advice

Further information

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