

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry COVID-19 update

14 January 2021

An update on pandemic orders

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the ports, freight and logistics industries supporting the movement of critical supplies across Victoria and beyond.

Additional workers will be eligible for exemption from close contact home isolation requirements to attend their workplace from **11:59pm, Tuesday 18 January**. This will apply to workers in emergency services, education, critical utilities, custodial facilities, transport and freight, in addition to workers in food sector previously announced.

Both the worker and employer must consent to the worker returning to the workplace. They are already required to be fully vaccinated, with additional controls required:

- daily Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) for five days, with a negative result prior to attending work each day.
- wear a face mask at all times, except eating or drinking or for safety reasons, with a P2/N95 respirator preferred.
- separate break areas, and a preference for solo break time.
- where possible, deploying the worker in areas where transmission risk is lower.

If the worker develops symptoms or tests positive on a RAT, the exemption no longer applies and they are considered a case.

The Department of Health updated its contact management guidelines to require workplaces to notify the Department when five cases have attended the work premises within seven days. Previously, workplaces were required to advise the Department and Worksafe of single cases.

Below is a **summary of updates** from the various Pandemic Orders that have come into effect this week.

All current and previous Pandemic Orders are available at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/pandemic-order-register>

*We also acknowledge the potential difficulty in sourcing some supplies required to comply with the orders, including availability of rapid antigen tests and recommended face coverings. Please continue to provide your feedback on these matters to inform our advice to Government. .

Requirements about mandatory vaccinations

The [*Pandemic COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Specified Workers\) Order 2022 \(No. 2\)*](#)

requires – for workers scheduled to work outside the worker's ordinary place of residence – employers are to record that the worker is fully vaccinated (two doses) and when they became so.

Where a worker is subject to a booster deadline, employers are to record that the worker has received their booster, including the date when it happened.



Department
of Transport

Booster deadlines apply to food distribution workers – which includes a person who works at or in connection with a premises used for the distribution of food and is a port or freight worker. For a worker who became fully vaccinated (two doses)

- on or before 12 September 2021, the deadline for receiving a booster is 12 February 2022.
- after 12 September 2021, the deadline for receiving a booster is 12 March 2022.

Other defined workers that may apply to the ports and freight sector – including *ports or freight worker*, *retail worker*, and *transport worker* – do not currently have booster deadlines applied to them.

Workers who cannot attend a work location

Under the *Specified Workers Order* the following workers are not permitted to work outside of their ordinary place of residence

- Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated workers
- Those who have not met the booster deadline
- Where the employer does not hold information about the worker's vaccination status.

Who can attend a workplace and when

The [*Pandemic \(Workplace\) Order 2022 \(No. 3\)*](#) outlines the requirements of employers in relation to managing works on site, COVIDSafe Plans and what's required if a worker returns a positive PCR, RAT or is symptomatic, or a confirmed case on a work premises.

Exposed workers must provide evidence of a negative test result before returning to the work premises.

Where a worker is directed to travel home for isolation, they are required to do so immediately.

Isolating and testing

The [*Pandemic \(Quarantine, Isolation and Testing\) Order 2022 \(No. 4\)*](#) adopts the [*Testing requirements for contacts and exposed persons*](#), published by the Department of Health on 7 January (link below).

The *Testing requirements* outlines **mandatory** testing for


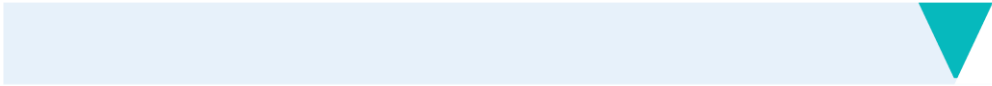
- close contact with and without symptoms
- exposed person with symptoms (inclusive of workplace exposure)
- social contact with symptoms.

It also establishes **recommended** testing for

- exposed person without symptoms (inclusive of workplace exposure)
- social contacts without symptoms
- symptomatic person in the community (not close contact, exposed person or social contact)
- asymptomatic person in the community (not close contact, exposed person or social contact).

Requirements about face coverings

The [*Pandemic \(Movement and Gathering\) Order 2022 \(No. 3\)*](#) and [*Pandemic \(Workplace\) Order 2022 \(No. 3\)*](#) require that workers working outside of their ordinary place of residence are required carry and wear face coverings, including indoors. However, some exemptions apply – including where a person is working by themselves in an indoor space.



Freight Victoria

Department of Transport