

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry COVID-19 update

1 November 2021

Easing of restrictions across Victoria

On 29 October 2021, several eased restrictions came into effect as approximately 80 per cent of Victorians aged 16 years and older were double dose vaccinated.

In summary:

- You can leave home for any reason and travel anywhere in Victoria
- You can travel interstate subject to the state's entry requirements
- Masks are only required inside for those 12 and over. Masks are recommended outside if you can't maintain physical distance
- All retail opens to density limits
- Hospitality and entertainment can open to those fully vaccinated, within density limits
- People should work from home if they can, but fully vaccinated can go to work if they need to.

You need to check in everywhere using the Service Victoria app and those aged 16 and over need to carry evidence of being fully vaccinated (can be included in the Service Victoria app) or a medical exemption.

Details of all the eased restrictions are outlined on the [Coronavirus website](#).

New Mandatory Vaccination (General Workers) Directions

The new [Mandatory Vaccination \(General Workers\) Directions](#) require employers to only allow general workers to work outside of their ordinary place of residence if they have collected those workers' vaccination information. Workers need to provide their employer with evidence of full vaccination or acceptable medical exemption before they can work outside of their place of residence.

New requirement for vaccination exemptions

The [Chief Health Officer has declared](#) that from 6pm, Friday 29 October, only the Australian Immunisation Register medical exemption form is to be used to provide patients proof of a medical exemption to any vaccination requirements in Victoria.

The Australian Immunisation Register provides those who meet the very limited criteria with proof of medical exemption via the myGov website in the same way vaccination certificates are accessed.

People with an exemption letter that isn't the Australian Immunisation Register form – such as just a standard doctor's certificate – will need to return to their medical practitioner to submit the form by 12 November. They can continue to use a doctor's certificate up to that date.

Those who don't meet the specific medical contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination according to ATAGI guidance will not have a valid exemption after 12 November.

The new requirements for medical exemptions are outlined in the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions.

Reduced testing requirements for border crossings

The reissued [Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions \(No 36\)](#) further reduce testing requirements for Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permit holders, including freight workers.



Department
of Transport

Note that Victoria currently classifies all of Australia as a green zone, aside from Greater Sydney and the ACT which are orange zones.

What are the new testing requirements?

Testing if fully vaccinated:

- Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permit holders no longer need to get tested within 72 hours of entry into Victoria if they have been in an orange zone in the previous 14 days.
- If the Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permit holder has been in a red zone in the previous 14 days, they need to get tested within 72 hours and then every seven days after the first test.
- They must carry evidence of each test and to show they are fully vaccinated.

Testing if not fully vaccinated:

- The permit holder must get a COVID-19 test within 72 hours after entering Victoria and:
 - If they have been in an orange zone in the previous 14 days, then seven days after the first test.
 - If they have been in a red zone in the previous 14 days, they need to get tested every three days after the first test.
- They must carry evidence of each test and evidence of their first vaccination.
- A reminder that all freight workers in Victoria need to be fully vaccinated by 26 November 2021.

Recently reissued directions

The following directions were effective from 6pm on 29 October 2021:

- [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(General Workers\) Directions](#)
- [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Specified Facilities\) Directions \(No 11\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Workers\) Directions \(No 6\)](#)
- [Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions \(No 32\)](#)
- [Open Premises Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Revocation of Area Directions \(No 27\)](#)
- [Stay Safe Directions \(Victoria\) \(No 28\)](#)
- [Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions \(No 36\)](#)
- [Workplace Directions \(No 54\)](#)
- [Workplace \(Additional Industry Obligations\) Directions \(No 54\)](#) - no longer requires temperature screening of port of entry workers before they enter the premises.

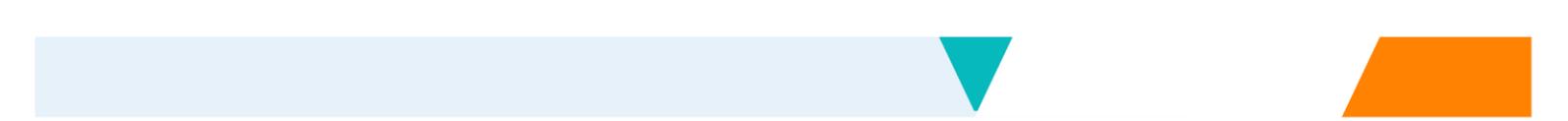
All the latest directions can be found on Victoria's [Department of Health website](#).

Upcoming removal of freight testing sites

With changes to the border restrictions and the reduced number of tests required of freight workers, the Department of Health is reviewing freight-friendly testing site operations.

These facilities will reduce operations or be closed with resources applied to areas of higher need. We will update you when these changes are finalised.

Reminder - contact assessment and management guidance



The Department of Health has released a contact assessment and management matrix to help guide workplaces, business and industry with COVID-19 contact management.

The guidance aims to enable workplaces to begin contact tracing in advance of support from the Department of Health.

You can access the guide on the [Coronavirus website](#).

Latest on rapid antigen testing

Businesses can deploy rapid antigen testing as an additional tool to screen for COVID-19. Currently businesses will need to self-fund implementation. Rapid antigen testing needs to be supervised by a health practitioner and any positive tests need to be followed up with a PCR test.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration provides guidance on implementing rapid antigen testing for businesses. The guide is available on the [TGA website](#). Further guidance on implementation is also available on Victoria's [Department of Health website](#).

Take care on the roads

With people able to freely move between regional and metropolitan Victoria, drivers are reminded to be careful on the roads, particularly as the general public may not have driven significant distances in some time.

Drivers are also reminded to check the [VicTraffic website](#) for road closures due to fallen trees and other damage from recent high winds.

Thanks for your input and support

A sincere thank you to our stakeholders across the freight and logistics industry who have engaged with us over the past four months, working through cross border matters and providing input and feedback on COVID-19 related issues.

We've appreciated your time, advice and leadership given the challenging period for the industry.