

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

19 February 2021

Ports of Entry - Maritime

The ports and maritime 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.

Ongoing Surveillance COVID-19 testing for workers in ports

Victoria's [Workplace \(Additional Industry Obligations\) Directions \(No 17\)](#) requires some workers in ports of entry to undertake surveillance COVID-19 testing.

A port of entry worker includes:

- any maritime port worker who has direct contact with passengers or crew at the international port of entry, including occasional contact or interactions; or
- 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.**

The Department of Transport is working with the Department of Health (DH) and maritime 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.

Surveillance Testing Industry List

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

This list includes ports of entry - maritime. The testing requirement applies to workers 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.

Examples of workers in scope for testing include:

- Any worker who interacts with maritime crew at the port of entry.
- 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 100% of in scope workforce must be tested once per week.

A person who boards a vessel and interacts with crew members or an environment where crew members have been will be in scope for testing once every 7 days, for the 14 days following the interaction.

For clarity, this includes any interaction with a vessel environment, including the bridge or wheelhouse, ship gangway or other deck or outdoor area on the vessel.

See DHHS [Ports of Entry Sector Guidance](#) webpage.

Employers must carry out workplace testing for COVID-19 on its workers including:

- those sections of its workforce required to be tested under the Department Surveillance Testing Industry List and Requirements; and
- a weekly surveillance testing target of the percentage of workers that are to be tested for each
- industry listed in the Surveillance Testing Industry List and Requirements; and
- keep records of surveillance testing of workers for COVID-19.



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Employers with workers who are or may be in scope should regularly check the [Surveillance Testing Industry List](#) webpage for further updates from the DH.

Employers will be provided a surveillance COVID-19 testing template to support record keeping and compliance monitoring.

The DH will support industry in the coordination of surveillance COVID-19 testing with no cost for the test collection and pathology.

A dedicated email address has been created to assist with lodging surveillance COVID-19 testing and to raise any related queries Industrytesting@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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

Maritime workers can be tested at around 175 fixed testing sites across Victoria. To find your nearest testing location visit the DHHS [‘Where to get tested’](#) webpage.

Maritime workers being tested should self-identify as ports of entry workers to COVID testing staff and keep the app notification on their mobile phones.

From Monday 22 February, additional dedicated commercial ports testing locations for maritime workers are being established at all commercial ports.

- **Port of Melbourne** (Monday - Sunday – 7.00am-7.00pm)
Appleton Dock Substation/Workshop (Appleton Dock Road and/or Enterprise Road)
- **Port of Geelong** (Monday - Sunday – 7.00am-7.00pm)
Lascelles Wharf, The Esplanade, North Shore
- **Port of Hastings** (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am-5pm)
1d Stony Point Rd, Crib Point Victoria 3919 - Tug & Amenities office.

The Port of Portland testing location will be communicated to the ports industry later next week.

COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-out

The first stage of the Australian Government’s COVID-19 vaccination program will be rolled out in Victoria, for people at high risk of contracting COVID-19, at nine suburban and regional health services as soon as a vaccine is available.

Victorian public hospital vaccination hubs will be established at Western Health, Austin Health, Monash Health, Barwon Health, Goulburn Valley Health, Latrobe Health, Bendigo Health, Ballarat Health and Albury-Wodonga Health.

The first priority groups in Australia can start receiving this vaccine in early March.

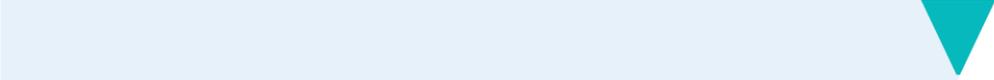
COVID-19 vaccines will be available in phases, as defined by the Australian Government’s schedule, with the Australian Government prioritising groups based on expert medical and public health advice.

Please see [Information about vaccines for COVID-19](#) webpage.

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 DoT and the industry will provide employer contacts for border workers to DH. Employers will need to provide proof of occupation and to demonstrate the eligibility of border workers in order to receive the vaccine. Please note that the COVID-19 vaccine will not be compulsory.



For more information

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.