

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry COVID-19 Update

19 July 2022

Changes to pandemic orders

Changes to pandemic orders come into effect at 11.59pm on Tuesday 12 July 2022 with a continued focus on protecting the healthcare system and keeping the community safe over winter.

These changes will be further supported through public health messaging via the **Stay Safe in Winter** campaign. These messaging and engagement efforts with the community will encourage the uptake of third and fourth COVID-19 vaccine doses, flu vaccination, the benefits of wearing face masks and maximising ventilation indoors.

Please refer to the pandemic orders for more detail: [Pandemic Order Register | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/pandemic-order-register)

Pandemic declaration extended by three months

The Victorian Government announced it has extended the pandemic declaration to apply from 11.59pm Tuesday 12 July for three months as part of Victoria's continued response to coronavirus pandemic and the challenges winter presents. In summary, the pandemic declaration extension:

- Gives the Minister for Health the authority to make pandemic orders considered reasonably necessary to protect public health after considering Chief Health Officer and other relevant advice.
- Allows recent changes to pandemic orders to remain in place over winter to protect Victorians and the health system.
- Will expire at 11.59pm, 12 October 2022 and subsequent extensions can last up to three months.

Read the full statement here: [Statement on the Pandemic Declaration](#)

ATAGI updated recommendations for a winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has updated its recommendations for a winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine to help reduce severe disease from the emerging surge of Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariant infections, and to reduce the burden on Australian hospitals and the healthcare system in coming months. The updated recommendations are:

- Adults aged 50 to 64 years are now recommended to receive a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Adults aged 30 to 49 years can receive a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, however the benefit for people in this age group is less certain.
- The interval recommended between a recent SARS-CoV-2 infection, or the first booster dose and a winter booster dose is now 3 months.

Read the full statement here: [ATAGI updated recommendations for winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Updated DH advice

The Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants, which are now dominant along the east coast of Australia, are expected to continue to cause increases in new cases, reinfections, and hospital admissions – with a

53 percent increase in the number of Victorians in hospital with COVID-19 over the last two weeks. The modelling also indicates the possibility of another peak in August 2022.



Department
of Transport

OHS Regulations - Vaccination information

New [OHS Regulations](#) authorising employers to collect vaccination information from certain workers (but not third parties and members of the public) come into effect from 12 July 2022 until 12 July 2023.

The authorisation in the new Regulations is directly relevant to employers (like public sector employers in the Transport Portfolio) who issue their own COVID-19 vaccination directions for the purposes of performing a duty under the *OHS Act 2004 (Vic)*.

Key highlights:

1. For the purposes of performing a duty imposed by Part 3 of the OHS Act 2004 (Vic) or these Regulations, an employer is authorised to collect, record, hold and use COVID-19 vaccination information from a specified person who attends or will be attending a workplace under the employer's management or control to do the following:
 - a. to determine reasonably practicable measures to control the risks to health and safety associated with COVID-19 at that workplace
 - b. to implement any reasonably practicable control measure to control the risks to health and safety associated with COVID-19 at that workplace.
2. If immediately **before** the **commencement** of this **regulation** an employer holds COVID-19 **vaccination information** that was collected pursuant to the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* about a specified person who attends or will be attending a workplace under the employer's management or control, the **employer** is **authorised** to **record, hold, and use** that **information** for the purposes of sub-regulation (1).
3. **Specified person** means:
 - a. an employee of the employer; or
 - b. an independent contractor engaged by the employer; or
 - c. an employee of an independent contractor engaged by the employer; or
 - d. a volunteer or a student on placement permitted by the employer to attend a workplace under the management or control of the employer.
4. COVID-19 vaccination information may be:
 - a. derived from a record kept in the Australian Immunisation register; or
 - b. in the form of a letter from a registered medical practitioner; or
 - c. in the form of a certificate issued by Services Australia that states that the person is unable to receive a dose, or further dose, of vaccination against COVID-19 due to— (i) a medical contraindication; or (ii) an acute medical illness

Communication

You can access the latest COVID-19 health information via: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Thank you for your organisation's focused efforts on pandemic enduring response. We recognise your continued contribution to the health and safety of your employees, customers, and the community.

Al Martin
Associate Deputy Secretary
COVID-19 Response and Resilience