

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry COVID-19 update

22 November 2021

State of Emergency extended

Victoria's Declaration of State of Emergency has been extended to 11.59pm, 15 December 2021. The State of Emergency provides the Chief Health Officer with additional powers to issue directions to contain the spread of COVID-19 and keep Victorians safe.

Significant easing of COVID-19 restrictions

With Victoria expected to reach 90 per cent fully vaccinated for those 12 years of age and above this weekend and moving to [Phase D of Victoria's roadmap](#), the Government has announced significantly eased COVID-19 restrictions.

These include:

- Density quotients removed in all settings (where people are fully vaccinated). Larger venues over 30,000 capacity are required to publish their COVIDSafe plan online.
- Workplaces are open but full vaccination requirements are in place.
- Masks are required indoors only in limited settings including public transport, taxis and rideshare, retail, health care, aged care, at primary schools and high-risk workplaces such as meat and seafood processing. Mask requirements for indoor retail settings will be reviewed mid-December.
- If you have tested positive to COVID-19 you must quarantine at home for 10 days.
- Household contacts must quarantine at home (for 7 days if fully vaccinated and for 14 days if not fully vaccinated).
- Workplace or community close contacts only need to show a negative PCR test result to return to work, school or their normal activities. Thereafter, rapid antigen tests are recommended for workplace close contacts, especially attending sensitive or low vaccination settings, and kits will be provided at testing centres.
- A checklist for COVID contacts is provided on the [Coronavirus website](#), and
- Employers/operators must inform staff or students of potential exposure to a positive case, direct those affected to undertake COVID-19 PCR testing within 24 hours and provide their test result.

The Victorian Department of Health will monitor and manage emerging outbreaks and can impose further requirements if necessary.

Reduced requirements in ports of entry

In changes to the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions (No 57), additional measures required in ports of entry have been reduced. Employers must still provide PPE and ensure that it is worn. However, a number of measures are no longer mandated:

- daily pre-shift wellness declaration
- COVID Marshal
- shift separation, and
- training.

As part of updating COVIDSafe Plans, ports employers should consider whether maintaining these measures are effective controls for limiting COVID-19 transmission in the workplace and supporting business continuity.



Department
of Transport

Updated directions

The Chief Health Officer directions have been reissued in line with the recent announcement of eased restrictions:

- [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(General Workers\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Specified Facilities\) Directions \(No 13\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Workers\) Directions \(No 8\)](#)
- [Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions \(No 39\)](#) – outlines obligations after entry for international air crew.
- [Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions \(No 34\)](#) – outlines changes to quarantine, isolation, testing and employer/operator requirements as summarised above.
- [Open Premises Directions \(No 5\)](#) – full vaccination requirements to attend an open premises now start at the age of 12 years and 2 months and a COVIDSafe plan for venues over 30,000 capacity is required to be published online.
- [Stay Safe Directions \(Victoria\) \(No 29\)](#) – outlines mask wearing requirements.
- [Workplace Directions \(No 56\)](#)
- [Workplace \(Additional Industry Obligations\) Directions \(No 57\)](#) – outlines cleaning requirements for some industries. Where rapid antigen testing is used, an invalid result triggers the requirement to complete another test. If the second is invalid or a positive result is received, the worker needs to have a PCR test and isolate till a negative result is received.
- [Care Facilities Directions \(No 50\)](#)
- [Hospital Visitor Directions \(No 40\)](#)

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

Reminder of 26 November vaccination requirement

Those covered by the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions, such as port and freight workers, maritime crew and warehousing and distribution workers, are required to be fully vaccinated by next Friday, 26 November 2021 or have a valid medical exemption.

Beyond this date, employers cannot permit their staff to undertake work in Victoria outside of their usual residence if they have not provided valid evidence of full vaccination or medical exemption.

Other ways to stay informed

For more information on road works and real-time updates, you can:

- [subscribe to daily alerts](#)
- tune in to AM and FM radio for regular traffic updates
- follow us on [Twitter](#) for all the latest traffic information
- like us on [VicRoads Facebook](#) or [VicTraffic](#)
- look out for electronic road signs.

Traffic disruptions - Kalkallo Creek at Kalkallo

Upcoming maintenance and assessment works on the bridge spanning Kalkallo Creek at Kalkallo on the Hume Highway will mean drivers can expect delays of approximately 5 minutes.

There will be a lane closure on the bridge, with speed reduction from 80km/hr to 40km/hr.

Work will occur between 7am and 5pm on:

- Saturday, November 20

- Saturday, November 27
- Saturday, December 4
- Saturday, December 11.

If you have any questions about these works, please contact the team at mnw.communications@roads.vic.gov.au.

Australia's first High Productivity Freight Vehicle Notice

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has published Australia's first [High Productivity Freight Vehicle Notice](#) eliminating the need for permits for most PBS vehicles who meet requirements to run on the HPFV Network in Victoria.

The HPFV Network amounts to nearly 8,000 kilometres of routes.

Publication of this notice has streamlined access for the majority of the more than 1,100 HPFVs fitted with smart on-board mass (OBM) operating on the network and will significantly reduce Class 2 permit numbers.

Some HPFVs may still be required to operate under a Class 2 permit if:

- The operators HPFV is not a listed reference vehicle; or
- The operator has requested access to an arterial or local road not part of the approved HPFV network; or
- The operator is operating at a higher mass limit on some structures than what is shown on the maps.

Smart OBM and TMA/IAP are required on all vehicles operating under this notice.

November 1 was the due date for operators to install approved smart OBM systems to their HPFVs.

HPFVs not currently fitted with smart OBM that require an extension can apply via the following email address: heavyvehicles@transport.vic.gov.au.

As part of the application, you will need to provide:

- Evidence of when your OBM system will be fitted
- The name of your smart OBM provider
- Registration information for the prime movers and trailers that will be fitted with smart OBM.

Find out more on the [VicRoads website](#).