

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

26 April 2021

## Victorian Travel Permit update – freight permit now ‘specified worker with low workplace interaction’ permit.

The [Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions \(No 10\)](#) came into effect from 6:00pm on Friday 23 April 2021.

A travel permit is required for all domestic travel into Victoria, and travel to Victoria from New Zealand.

The permit system is based on a traffic light system which allows for areas across Australia and New Zealand to be designated as green, orange or red according to their risk.

### **The Perth metropolitan area and Peel region red zones came into effect at 2:01am, Saturday 24 April 2021.**

While red or orange zones are in place, freight operators are eligible for a permit to enable travel to Victoria, with requirements including keeping records of contacts and COVID-19 testing every seven days.

In this update to the Directions, **the freight worker permit is replaced with a multiple entry “Specified Worker (Low Workplace Interaction) Permit”**.

This means that on the Services Victoria website there will no longer be a Freight Worker Permit.

This permit is available for workers with high mobility and minimal interaction with other workers or the public.

Currently only freight workers are eligible for this type of Specified Worker Permit, with other types available <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/travellers-eligible-to-apply-for-specified-worker-permit>

When applying for a Victorian Travel Permit after having been in a red or orange zone, freight operators should select the option:

- **I am a specified worker with low workplace interaction**

You can find more information and apply for a Permit at Services Victoria’s [COVID-19 border entry webpage](#)

## Ports COVID-19 surveillance testing

The [Workplace \(Additional Industry Obligations\) Directions \(No 22\)](#) came into effect from 6:00pm on Friday 23 April 2021. Requirements for ports of entry are unchanged from the previous Directions.

The previous update to the Directions included a requirement for employers to provide records of surveillance testing of their workers to the Department of Health (DH) on request.

This request is the weekly reporting to the Industry Testing team.

An increasing number of ports employers are reporting testing results.

The Department of Transport thanks ports workers and employers for participating in surveillance testing and for reporting, particularly given the significant numbers of COVID-19 cases overseas.

If you are an employer in a port who is not currently reporting testing, please contact the Department of Health by emailing [IndustryTesting@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:IndustryTesting@dhhs.vic.gov.au). This applies:

- If you have testing numbers to report but have not received an email from DH - the Industry Testing team will send you the link for the current week and include you in future emails.



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- If your operations mean your workers do not interact with international crew or vessels – include this in your email.

Testing is continuing to operate at ports, with no change to operating hours:

- **Port of Melbourne** (7.00am – 7.00pm, Monday - Sunday)  
Appleton Dock Substation/Workshop (Appleton Dock Road and/or Enterprise Road)
- **Port of Geelong** (9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday)  
Lascelles Wharf, The Esplanade, North Shore
- **Port of Portland** (7.00am – 3.30pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday)  
Main Breakwater Rd, Portland

## Reminder about PPE requirements for workers in ports

The DH recently published a handy guide to the personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) in ports of entry.

It is important that workers interacting with international crew and ships are using the required PPE and other measures to reduce the risk of potential COVID-19 transmission. Ports employers are reminded that they must provide PPE free of charge and ensure that it is worn, under the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions.

The [PPE matrix document](#) and other resources for ports employers and workers are available on the [Ports of Entry page](#) on the Victorian Government's coronavirus website.

## COVID-19 vaccinations for border workers in ports

Border workers are eligible for vaccination as part of Phase 1a of the vaccine roll-out.

Workers who have yet to receive their first dose of the vaccine may have appointments delayed relating to the pause in administering the AstraZeneca vaccine for people under 50 years.

This has also delayed vaccination of household contacts of Phase 1a border workers who are eligible for vaccination under Phase 1b. More information will be provided by DH as soon as it is available.

The DH appreciates your patience as it rolls out the immunisation program. If you have any queries related to the COVID-19 vaccine please contact [COVIDVaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:COVIDVaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

For more information, refer to the [Victorian Government's coronavirus information hub](#)

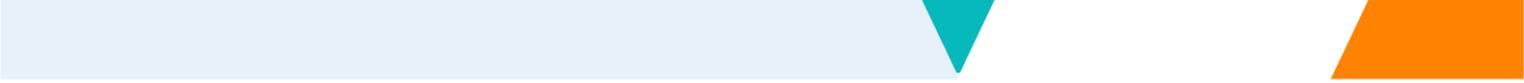
## Minimum Passing Distance - Sharing the road with bikes riders

On 23 April 2021, the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Ben Carroll [announced](#) the introduction of mandatory minimum passing distances to improve cyclist safety - this will make the passing distance rules clear and consistent across state lines for all road users.

Truck drivers are trained to be good at driving in traffic. But, because trucks are so big, truck drivers often cannot see all around them, they have very large blind spots.

When driving big vehicles, like trucks, in some situations a safe distance may be more than the 1 metre (on roads with speeds up to and including 60km/h) or 1.5 metre minimum (on roads with speeds over 60km/h).

Drivers may need to provide bicycle riders with more space than the minimum passing distance when required.



Enforcement is a matter for Victoria Police, and they will enforce the minimum passing distance as part of its ongoing role in enforcing road rules.

A maximum court penalty of 10 penalty units (\$1,652) or an on-the-spot infringement penalty of 2 penalty units (\$330). Improper overtaking or passing offence incurs 2 demerit points.

This is the same as current penalties for overtaking a vehicle without leaving a sufficient distance.

For more information go to the [VicRoads Minimum Passing Distance](#) webpage.

### 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](mailto:freightvictoria@transport.vic.gov.au)

This update will be sent to you monthly or as required.