

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry COVID-19 update

27 May 2022

We acknowledge your continued support and efforts to ensure your organisation is prepared and capable of responding to COVID-19 outbreaks, new variants, updated pandemic orders and maintaining an enduring response.

These efforts are vital in sustaining service delivery across the transport network during disruption, and likewise the restoration of services.

To further support your readiness throughout winter please refer to the following information.

Winter Readiness

While the original BA2 Omicron wave is now past its peak, it remains in the community and concurrently the BA2.12 subvariant is now on track to become the dominant variant in Victoria. This is likely to result in an increased number of cases in the Community.

The BA2.12 subvariant is more transmissible and may be more likely to cause reinfection. The severity of disease and protection after vaccination appear to be similar between all Omicron variants.

It is anticipated that Victoria will continue to experience a surge in cases throughout June to August, and continued vigilance to COVIDSafe practices is required.

Employers should undertake regular and proactive reviews of systems, processes, and tools to provide assurance that your organisation is meeting its required regulatory and legislative obligations.

This activity also ensures currency of readiness to respond to a surge in COVID-19 cases.

This work is crucial to ensuring the transport sector is ready and able to respond to future events.

Below are the most recent changes affecting the transport sector from [Pandemic \(Public Safety\) Order 2022](#) effective from 11:59 pm on 22 April 2022.

Pandemic Order changes - Transport sector implications you and your stakeholders

Booster deadline for specified workers, including food distribution workers.

No longer clause allowing those who were required to have a third dose to remain at work as long as they have booster dose booking. Workers were required to have a third dose by 12 March 2022 – this includes food distribution workers.

- Face masks are still required to be worn on public transport, in commercial passenger vehicles (CPV), and/or in a vehicle operated by a licensed tourism operator.
- Surveillance testing is still recommended for CPVs, ports of entry, large construction sites, and supermarket distribution.
- For the purpose of detention, an international maritime arrival is now defined as a person who is arriving from another country and is disembarking a maritime vessel at a Victorian maritime port.
- COVIDSafe plans continue to be required in all workplaces
- Maritime workers are now treated the same as international aircrew services workers. Both are now defined as international services workers and required to be fully vaccinated (two doses or medical exemption) to enter Victoria. International maritime passenger arrivals are now defined as international passenger arrival and must be fully vaccinated.

Vaccination: COVID-19

Eligible people who have received their primary vaccination and third dose will be able to receive their COVID-19 vaccine 'winter booster dose'. Those eligible are:

- adults aged 65 years and older
- residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- people aged 16 years and older who are severely
- immunocompromised
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older.

Further information is available via:

www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/pandemic-order-register

Vaccination: Influenza

With restrictions for COVID-19 easing a resurgence of influenza is expected in 2022. Australia's influenza season is predicted to be worse than in previous pandemic years with experts warning against complacency around influenza vaccines.

We recognise that many have commenced flu vaccination programs for staff, including communication campaigns and a range of approaches including on-site hubs. We encourage you to support staff to access flu vaccines to ensure their own health and safety as well as the continuation of service delivery in the transport sector.

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advises that annual vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications.

- Special risk groups are eligible to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine for free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).
- Influenza vaccine is free for all infants and children from six months to under five years of age.
- Influenza vaccine is free for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged six months and older.
- Age-specific, adjuvanted influenza vaccine is available for those aged 65 years and older.
- There is no interval required between the administration of COVID-19 vaccine and the influenza vaccine.

Further information is available via:

www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/seasonal-influenza-vaccine

Communication

We welcome your continued attendance at Department of Transport briefings and remind you that you can also access the latest health information about COVID-19 via:

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Thank you for your organisation's focused efforts on pandemic readiness and enduring response.

We recognise your continued contribution to the health and safety of your employees, customers, and the community.

AI Martin

Associate Deputy Secretary

COVID-19 Response and Resilience