

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry COVID-19 update

9 September 2021

Mandatory vaccinations for Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permit holders

Due to the ongoing level of community transmission of COVID-19, Victoria will introduce mandatory vaccinations for freight workers with Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permits crossing into Victoria and having been in an extreme risk/red zone in the previous 14 days. This requirement comes into effect on **23 September** and we encourage all eligible freight workers to book vaccine appointments now. Details for booking priority vaccinations for eligible freight workers are provided below.

From 23 September, freight workers entering Victoria with Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permits (and their employer) will need to provide evidence of at least one vaccination or evidence from a medical practitioner that an exemption applies to them.

Priority vaccinations for eligible freight workers

Freight workers with Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permits receive priority bookings for free COVID-19 vaccinations, even if they are not a Victorian resident.

Permit holders must call 1800 675 398 to book in at any state vaccination centre and advise the operator that you are a Commercial Freight Worker for a priority booking.

Freight workers from extreme risk / red zones

Permit holders that have been to an extreme risk / red zone in the past 14 days must book into a **red zone clinic** for their vaccination.

Red zone clinics are located at:

- Melbourne Showgrounds
- Sunshine
- Sandown Racecourse
- Ford Campbellfield
- Wangaratta

Learn more about [booking vaccinations](#).

Freight-friendly COVID-19 testing

A reminder that freight drivers entering Victoria, other than from a green zone, need a Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permit and must undertake a COVID-19 test every three days if they have been to an extreme risk / red zone or within 72 hours if they have been in an orange zone.

Along with [Victoria's network of testing centres](#), freight-friendly testing sites have been set up at:

- Nhill Trailer Exchange, Western Highway - 12pm-12am (currently in a trial period)
- Beveridge Truck Stop/Weighbridge (southbound), Hume Freeway - 6pm-6am
- Broadford Weighbridge (NHVR) (northbound), Hume Freeway - 6pm-6am
- **New!** - Murrungowar Picnic Ground (inbound), Princes Highway (16km east of Orbost) - 7am-7pm (replaces Longwarry testing site)

All freight-friendly sites use the Department of Health's Test Tracker system, which provides a text message confirmation that a driver can provide as evidence of a test. Note that operating hours of testing centres are subject to change.



Department
of Transport

For other state and territory testing requirements, visit the [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#).

Warehouse and distribution workplace surveillance testing

Some industries identified as higher risk of COVID-19 transmission are subject to the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions, including workforce surveillance testing.

The surveillance testing industry list has been updated with a refined definition of warehousing and distribution to include only those that are food supply related. Note that all warehouses and distribution centres are still subject to other requirements in the Directions, to provide training and, in metropolitan Melbourne, COVID marshals.

The latest update to the list refines the scope of surveillance testing to only Melbourne facilities with over 100 workers, with all workers in scope:

- Supermarket distribution, perishable food chilled distribution
- Food supply related warehousing and distribution

These facilities will be subject to wastewater surveillance 2-3 times per week.

If there is an unexpected positive wastewater detection, wastewater surveillance moves to daily and a nasal swab PCR test of 100% of the workforce is recommended. If these positive results continue, the testing requirement is expanded.

Further details can be found on the [surveillance testing industry list webpage](#).

2020 Container Logistics Chain Study

The Minister for Ports and Freight, Hon. Melissa Horne MP has officially launched the Port of Melbourne 2020 Container Logistics Chain Study on 6 September 2021.

The study examines the port's container flow, trends and changes since the last study in 2009, and the impact and nature of growth in container volumes.

The study of Port of Melbourne container movements shows Melbourne's outer western and outer south eastern suburbs are receiving more than two thirds of the state's container imports.

The information will support policy and investment decisions as Victoria prepares for an expected increase in the freight task to 900 million tonnes by 2051.

Read about the study and its key findings at the [Port of Melbourne website](#).

Other updates in brief

Restrictions lift in regional Victoria

From 11.59pm tonight, Thursday 9 September, the five reasons to leave the home will be removed in regional Victoria, except for Greater Shepparton. There will be no limit on the distance regional Victorians can travel from home – other than restriction on entry to metropolitan Melbourne.

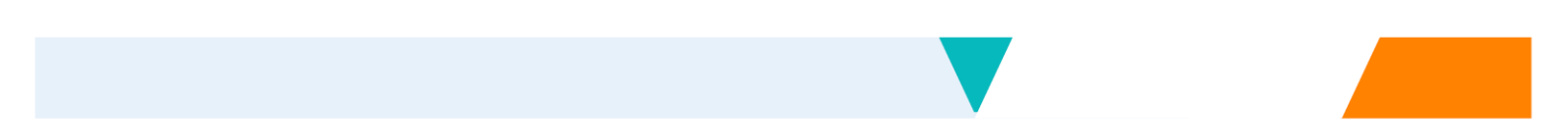
You can read the [announcement from the Premier](#).

Immediate vaccination access for ALC member workforce

[Australian Logistics Council has announced](#) that member companies and their workforces will have immediate access to COVID-19 vaccinations at 3,500 pharmacies across Australia. This will provide freight and supply chain workers with an additional option to access vaccinations, including in regional locations.

The ALC will soon offer COVID-19 vaccinations to their members through a personalised booking platform.

Lifted truck curfews continue



To continue support of deliveries of supplies to pharmacies and supermarkets, the Victorian Government has extended the lifting of truck curfews till 23 September.

Find out more about [truck curfews](#).

Princes Highway speed limit changes at Tynong North

Following considerable increases in traffic and crashes, speed limits have been reduced to 80km/h between Tynong Road North and Gumbuya World entrance and between Hope Street and A'beckett Road while a more permanent solution to improve safety is investigated.

For further information visit [Princes Highway Safety Improvements - Tynong North to Longwarry: VicRoads](#)