

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

11 September 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) roadmaps for reopening

The Victorian Government has released the coronavirus (COVID-19) roadmaps for reopening for metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. From 28 September 2020, some work restrictions will be eased across Victoria, subject to 'trigger points' being met and public health advice. Common COVIDSafe principles apply to all business:

- ensure physical distancing (1.5 metres)
- wear a mask or face covering
- practice good hygiene
- keep good records and act quickly if staff become unwell
- avoid interactions in close spaces
- create workforce bubbles.

All businesses must have a COVIDSafe Plan for onsite operations.

Extension of stage 4 restrictions and Permitted Worker Permits

Under stage 4 restrictions, employers that require their staff to attend a work site must issue a Permitted Worker Permit to their employees. With Stage 4 restrictions extended beyond 13 September 2020, businesses are required to reissue worker permits, except:

- If businesses have issued permits with future date ranges, they do not need to reissue Permitted Worker Permits.
- Businesses can edit and add to the dates on the Permitted Worker Permits they have currently issued to workers if required.

For the freight and logistics industry, it is recommended that you:

- Reissue the Permit in full so that the date of signing and the period that the permit is valid align.
- Set the Permit's expiry date with a buffer, primarily for workers with regular shifts, as the easing of restrictions is tied to the later of an average case threshold and a date.

Permits can be signed electronically, and you can send the Permitted Worker Permit to your employee by email or text. However, if you cannot reissue all permits immediately, workers with a permit expiring on 13 or 14 September 2020 should carry this permit, to ensure authorities can verify with the employer contact that they are on their way to work or undertaking Permitted Activity.

For the latest on permits including the updated template, see the [Worker Permit Scheme](#) information on the vic.gov.au website

Clearer definitions for warehousing

In addition to the COVIDSafe Principles, each Permitted Industry will also have a different restriction level depending, based on case numbers, testing numbers and other factors.

The Victorian Government has a number of separate roadmaps for transport, freight and logistics industries with the relevant [industry roadmaps](#) available on the vic.gov.au website. The Government has also updated its detailed definitions for postal and distribution centres and wholesale trade and warehousing:



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- **Postal distribution centres:** facilities used for sorting of mail and parcels, cross-docking, loading for distribution, plus vehicle fleet for last mile delivery
- **Wholesale trade and warehousing:** facilities used for bulk sales, storage, breakdown, sorting, picking, packing, e-commerce pick/pack, bulk distribution

These definitions are available in the relevant [industry roadmap](#) available on the vic.gov.au website.

COVIDSafe work practices for truck drivers

The COVIDSafe Principles and Plans which apply to workplaces generally do not translate easily when the workplace is a heavy vehicle. Some clarifications to applying these requirements:

Heavy vehicle drivers do not need to wear a face covering if they are driving alone. A face covering must be worn if a driver leaves the vehicle or winds down the window to talk to someone.

In Stage 4 restrictions, employees are prohibited from car-pooling to and from work, however, while working a second worker may need to share a vehicle. This is permitted only for:

- a co-driver or support worker (for example, service technician), or
- drivers in transit between depots as part of their work.

In all situations, the COVIDSafe Principles apply, to wear a face covering and practice good hygiene, and to maintain physical distancing. (Face coverings and physical distancing are not required for members of the same household). Employers must keep good records and create workforce bubbles.

Business Victoria Coronavirus Business Support

A dedicated Industry Coordination Centre has been set up within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to support businesses and consider 'grey area' cases to determine if businesses can safely operate under Stage 4 restrictions.

If you are a small to medium business looking for information or assistance relating to coronavirus (COVID-19), please see the [Business Victoria Coronavirus Business Support](#) page.

Business Victoria is part of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. For help with your business or to ask a question about the website contact Business Victoria (Local call) on **13 22 15**.

West Gate Freeway disruptions until 5 October

As part of Victoria's Big Build, West Gate Tunnel Project works continue to widen the West Gate Freeway from 8 to 12 through lanes.

Please be aware of the following disruptions:

- Millers Road inbound entry and exit ramp closed – from Friday 21 August to Monday 5 October.
- Millers Road under West Gate Freeway interchange closed in both directions – from Friday 4 September to Monday 5 October.
- Ongoing closures of the West Gate Freeway in September as crews shift traffic onto outer lanes, to enable widening works to start on the centre median.

Make sure you regularly visit Victoria's Big Build for the latest dates and detour information bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions Please email community@transport.vic.gov.au if you need more details about the spring transport works.

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

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