

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry COVID-19 Industry Update

30 August 2022

Your continued collaboration and efforts throughout the winter period to keep your employees, customers, and the community healthy and safe are acknowledged and appreciated.

As advised by the Department of Health, there are signs that Victoria could be moving past the peak of its current COVID-19 wave, and with no new variants of concern identified at this time, the likelihood of COVID-19 having a reduced impact on transport operations in the immediate future appears strong.

As we head into spring, we have longer days, better weather, and people begin enjoying the outdoors, and the opportunity to physically distance themselves more naturally as part of their social activities. However, continuing to be vigilant with enduring pandemic management processes and practices remains essential. The following information supports your organisation to do this.

Current Pandemic Declaration

The pandemic declaration and current orders remain in place until 11.59pm, 12 October 2022 as part of Victoria's continued response to the coronavirus pandemic. Full detail available at: [Pandemic \(Workplace\) Order 2022 \(No. 10\)](#)

Department of Health advice

The Department of Health continues to recommend all Victorians take personal responsibility and consider wearing a face mask in environments where it is no longer required to do so, such as offices workplaces, and retail settings. The following recommendations also remain in place.

Personal responsibility

- Wear a face mask - particularly if you cannot maintain 1.5m physical distance.
- Where possible improve ventilation by opening doors and windows, turning on fans.
- Practice good hand hygiene.
- Do not attend work if symptomatic, isolate if positive and advise employer, friends/family, and school.
- Get tested if concerned in any way.

Vaccination

- COVID-19 third (Winter dose) and fourth dose if eligible.
- Influenza vaccination against flu.

Australian Technical Advisory Group (ATAGI) recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine

ATAGI recommendations for a winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine are in place to help reduce severe disease from the Omicron subvariant infections, and to reduce the burden on Australian hospitals and the healthcare system in the coming months. The current recommendations are:

- Adults aged 50 to 64 years are now recommended to receive a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Adults aged 30 to 49 years can receive a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, however the benefit for people in this age group is less certain.
- The interval recommended between a recent SARS-CoV-2 infection, or the first booster dose and a winter booster dose is now 3 months.

Full detail available at: [ATAGI updated recommendations for winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine](#)



Department
of Transport

Communications campaigns

The Department of Health's **Stay Well in Winter** campaign has been running on social media, tv and radio over the past two months to boost public health messaging and engagement efforts with the community.

We encourage you to continue to promote this information to your staff and customers.

The Department of Transport's (DoT's) social media awareness campaign

DoT has launched a new social media campaign to encourage face mask wearing on public transport.

The campaign uses general and geotargeted messages in locations noted for low face mask compliance. In response to stakeholder feedback and our compliance data, DoT continues to support the community with this social media campaign throughout the remainder of winter.

The campaign is designed to:

- remind people that face masks are still mandatory on public transport
- address concerns and queries about face mask wearing
- encourage personal responsibility, that it is up to them to keep themselves and others safe

The campaign is highly targeted to reach key regional locations, metropolitan train lines with the lowest compliance, public transport hot spots in Melbourne, and special events.

Again, we encourage you to promote this information to your staff and customers to support their health and safety. Additionally, DoT has increased Public Transport Authorised Officer activity on the train and tram network, including face mask wearing education and distribution.

To learn more about the campaign or access the stakeholder kit, please reach out to Meaghan Allan, COVID Response and Resilience Lead via email at Meaghan.Allan@roads.vic.gov.au

Free face masks to keep Victorians safe this winter

As part of the Victorian Government's winter initiative to help reduce the impacts of COVID-19, additional face masks have been made available to train and tram operators to help keep staff and passengers safe.

Train and tram operators can access KN95 face masks via existing DoT processes (see below detail) and make face masks available to staff and to passengers at staffed stations and via Authorised Officers through to the end of August.

Please use stock as it flows through from DoT or order additional face masks by emailing your request to COVID-19Response@transport.vic.gov.au.

Operators should continue to make surgical face masks available to passengers if KN95 masks are not in stock. DoT will continue to work closely with public transport operators to monitor this change.

DoT's COVID-19 Response & Resilience Division continues to support

DoT is committed to providing a centralised COVID-19 coordination and facilitation function during winter 2022. Please continue to send your queries to COVID-19Response@transport.vic.gov.au and the team will support you.

We welcome your continued attendance at DoT COVID-19 briefings and remind you that you can access the latest COVID-19 health information 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