

COVID-19 testing information for Commercial Freight Workers (Rail)

Fact Sheet for Commercial Freight Rail Drivers and Crew – October 2021

OFFICIAL

New control measures, including regular COVID-19 testing, have been introduced to the Rail Freight Industry to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In accordance with the Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) permit, permit holders must comply with certain COVID-19 control measures including the requirement to be tested for COVID-19.

Further information in the Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions can be found using this link: [Department of Health Victoria | Victoria's restriction levels <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19).

A commercial freight worker means a person who is subject to the Freight Code and includes a heavy vehicle driver, rail crew or a support worker, but excludes:

- removalists who have been in a Red Zone, or Extreme Risk Zone within the last 14 days
- delivery drivers that have been in a Red Zone, or Extreme Risk Zone within the last 14 days (being drivers of vehicles under 4.5 Gross Vehicle Mass) and
- freight workers who are unable to load/unload cargo in a COVIDSafe manner (e.g., avoiding contact with other people, entering residential premises (e.g., avoiding contact with other people, entering residential premises not permitted)).

Who needs to get tested and how often

Red Zone or Extreme Risk Zone

All workers who enter Victoria on a Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) permit from an **Red Zone or Extreme Risk Zone** must be tested for COVID-19:

- at least **once every 3 days** for the duration of the validity period of the Specified Worker (Low Workplace Interaction) permit on which they have entered Victoria; and
- additionally, **if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms**.

Orange Zone

All workers who enter Victoria on a Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) permit from an **orange zone** must be tested for COVID-19:

- **once within the first 3 days** of the validity period of the Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) permit on which they have entered Victoria. Pending a negative result, workers will not need to get tested for the remainder of the validity period of that permit; and
- additionally, **if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms**.

Note: you are not required to be tested for COVID-19 more than four times in any 14-day period, including where you enter Victoria more than once in any 14 day period unless you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

- Tests are free for everyone. This includes people without a Medicare card, such as visitors from overseas, migrant workers and asylum seekers.
- Employees do not have to self-isolate and may continue working while awaiting their test results – unless they develop symptoms (see below). If symptoms develop, employees must self-isolate until they receive their results.
- You must continue to comply with all requirements of your permit even if you receive a negative test result.

Further information can be accessed using the links below:

Information on the Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) permit <<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/travellers-eligible-to-apply-for-specified-worker-permit>>

Definitions of the different colour zones see Victorian Travel Permit System <<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-travel-permit-system>>.

You must monitor for COVID-19 symptoms during your time in Victoria, symptoms include:

- a fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) or consistent fever of less than 37.5°C (such as night sweats, chills)
- acute respiratory infection (such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat)
- loss of smell and
- loss of taste.

Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) permit holders coming from orange, red and extreme risk zones must continue to adhere to permit requirements post-entry to Victoria, including:

- carry your permit, photo ID and evidence of residence
- wear a mask in all indoor and outdoor public spaces and in the vehicle when others are present for the required period (orange zone until negative test and red zone for 14 days) in addition to any mask requirements set forth by the Victorian Chief Health Officer's Directions for the community
- not carry passengers except for the purposes of work
- minimise contact with other persons
- keep details of each place you stop (red and extreme risk zones only).

Where and how to get tested

It is preferred that you get tested at the **testing site at the Port of Melbourne:**

- Location: Appleton Dock Substation/Workshop (Appleton Dock Road and/or Enterprise Road).
- Hours: 24 hours, 7 days per week (subject to change).

To save time please complete a registration form prior to testing. Please choose your industry as **Freight – Rail**. The form is available here <<https://testtracker.covid19.dhhs.vic.gov.au/industry-prefill>>

Alternative Testing Locations: you can attend any fixed testing sites that uses test tracker, for a list of the sites please check the Department of Health website and select a site that has testing registration forms available.

Where to get tested | Coronavirus Victoria <<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19>>

Vaccinations and COVID-19 testing

Anyone who has received a COVID-19 vaccination must continue to get tested as part of the requirements for the Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) permit.

To receive this document in another format phone 1300 651 160 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email the Department of Health <COVID-19@health.vic.gov.au>.

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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Available at: the Victorian Government COVID-19 webpage <<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>>