

17 February 2021

## Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Revised COVID-Normal Restrictions

On Wednesday, 17 February 2021 Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Health Minister Martin Foley announced Victoria will move to revised COVID-Normal restrictions, after circuit breaker action had given confidence Victoria had managed the latest outbreak.

### Caseload

On Wednesday, 17 February 2021, Victoria recorded 0 cases after testing 39,258 Victorians in the previous twenty-four hours. As of Wednesday 17 February 2021, Victoria had 25 active cases, with 19 cases connected to the Holiday Inn cluster.

Throughout the lockdown period, health authorities identified 3,400 close contacts to positive cases; there are 1712 primary contacts in isolation.

The current caseload, alongside the successful track and tracing of primary, secondary and tertiary contacts has given the health advisers and the Victorian Government confidence to conclude the Circuit-Breaker restrictions within the original set timeline.

For a full list of exposure sites and locations where you can get a test, click [here](#).

### Revised COVID-Normal Restrictions

The Premier noted Victorian health authorities believed “we’ve been able to contain [the] outbreak” As such, a return to revised ‘COVID-Normal’ restrictions are necessary to ensure Victoria avoids a third wave involving the more infectious UK-strain of the COVID-19 Virus.

### COVID Restrictions – From Thursday February 18

Circuit Breaker Restrictions – From Thursday 17 February	
Category	Restrictions
<b>Social</b>	<p><b>Leave home:</b> No restriction on reasons to leave home but stay safe.</p> <p><b>Public gatherings:</b> Up to 20 people can gather outdoors from any number of households, infants under 12 months are not included in the cap.</p> <p><b>Visitors to the home:</b> Up to 5 visitors can visit a home in a day (infants under 12 months are not counted in the cap), until Friday, 26 February.</p> <p>Visitors may be from any number of households and may visit either together or separately. Front and backyards are considered part of the home.</p> <p>From Saturday, 27 February up to 15 visitors can visit a home in a day (infants under 12 months are not counted in the cap).</p>
<b>Education and childcare</b>	<p><b>Childcare and early education:</b> Open.</p> <p><b>Schools:</b> Onsite learning.</p> <p><b>Adult education:</b> Open with no density quotient required in classroom settings.</p>
<b>Work</b>	<p><b>Offices:</b> capped at no more than 50 per cent of a workforce on-site.</p> <p>The Victorian Public Service will return to 50 per cent capacity.</p>

	<p>Subject to Public Health advice, offices can return to 75 per cent capacity but not before Saturday, 27 February.</p> <p>For workplaces with fewer than 40 staff, up to 20 staff onsite – subject to public health advice, and density quotas.</p> <p>All workplaces with onsite workers require a COVIDSafe Plan.</p>
<p><b>Hospitality</b></p>	<p><b>Hospitality:</b> No caps, however, density quotient of 1 per 2sqm for indoor and outdoor hospitality venues. Up to 25 patrons are permitted in a venue before the density quotient applies.</p> <p>No requirement for seated service. Density quotient of 1 per 4sqm on a dancefloor up to a maximum of 50 people.</p> <p>All venues are required to use electronic record keeping when applying the density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Food courts:</b> Indoor and outdoor food courts open with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. No patron cap for indoor food courts.</p>
<p><b>Shopping, hairdressing and personal care</b></p>	<p><b>Real estate:</b> Inspections and auctions operating with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm, subject to use of electronic record keeping. If not using electronic record keeping a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Retail:</b> (e.g. supermarkets, other retail) Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm, with record keeping where practicable.</p> <p><b>Hairdressing, beauty and personal care services:</b> Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies, when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Face masks no longer required.</p>
<p><b>Exercise and recreation</b></p>	<p><b>Indoor physical recreation and community sport:</b> No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm for each space.</p> <p><b>Gym and exercise classes:</b> limited to 50 people (excluding anyone necessary for running the class). COVID Marshals required when gyms are staffed. At times when gyms are unstaffed, a density quotient of 1 per 8 sqm applies.</p> <p>Signage must state the number of people permitted inside, wipes and disinfectant must be supplied for use by patrons, and record keeping is required and venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Outdoor physical recreation and community sport:</b> Up to a maximum of 100 patrons for outdoor fitness classes with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm. Record keeping is required and venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Pools, spas, saunas, steam rooms and springs:</b> <i>Indoor venues</i> open with a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm. <i>Outdoor pools</i> open with a density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm. Record keeping is required</p>
<p><b>Ceremonies and Occasions</b></p>	<p><b>Weddings:</b> No maximum attendee caps indoors or outdoors, density quotient of 1 per 2 sqm applies when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies.</p>

	<p>If held in a private residence, up to 30 guests can attend. Density quotient of 1 per 4sqm on a dancefloor up to a maximum of 50 people.</p> <p><b>Funerals:</b> No maximum attendee caps indoors or outdoors, density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. If held in a private residence, up to 30 guests can attend.</p> <p><b>Ceremonies and religious gatherings:</b> Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies. Venues using the density quotient of 1 per 2sqm must use electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Indoor and outdoor ceremonies can occur at the same time.</p>
<p><b>Entertainment and Leisure</b></p>	<p><b>Seated and non-seated entertainment venues (indoors):</b> Seated venues (indoor and outdoor, including cinemas), restricted to 50 per cent capacity, up to a maximum of 300 people;</p> <p>Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p>Arrangements for large events determined on an individual basis under the Public Events Frameworks.</p> <p><b>Outdoor non-seated entertainment venues (such as Zoos, live museums):</b> Open, density quotient of 1 per 2sqm when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies. Group limits removed. Indoor spaces at outdoor venues open, subject to restrictions relevant to the space (e.g. hospitality or retail). Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Arcades, escape rooms, bingo centres:</b> Open, no maximum patron caps and a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Drive in cinemas:</b> Open, in areas outside of vehicles density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Amusement parks:</b> Open, up to 75 per cent of venue capacity. Density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies indoors. Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm applies outdoors, when using electronic record keeping. In venues not using electronic record a density quotient of 1 per 4 sqm applies. Venues with capacity of greater than 500 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Gaming:</b> Open, with a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm, every second machine turned off, and no seated service requirement. Electronic record keeping required.</p> <p><b>Nightclubs:</b> Open, standing service permitted. Density quotient of 1 per 4sqm on a dancefloor up to a maximum of 50 people. Density quotient of 1 per 2sqm elsewhere in the venue, with no maximum patron limit. Electronic record keeping required</p>
<p><b>Community and Arts Facilities</b></p>	<p><b>Community venues and facilities including libraries and toy libraries:</b> No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm, subject to use of electronic</p>

	<p>record keeping. If not using electronic record keeping a density quotient of 1 per 4sqm applies.</p> <p><b>Creative arts facilities:</b> No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm, subject to use of electronic record keeping.</p>
<b>Travel and Accommodation</b>	<p><b>Accommodation:</b> Bookings restricted to the private gathering limit. The person or household booking the accommodation can have up to 30 visitors.</p> <p><b>Tourism spaces and groups:</b> No patron cap on tour groups. Masks must be worn on tour transport.</p> <p><b>Intrastate travel:</b> Allowed.</p> <p><b>Interstate travel:</b> Continued international border controls. State border controls activated in case of outbreaks</p>
<b>Care facilities and hospitals</b>	<p><b>Visitors:</b> : One household may visit a patient once per day. Symptomatic individuals (e.g. sore throat), close contacts and returned international travellers excluded from visiting</p>

For further details see the Victorian Government's revised COVID-Normal framework click [here](#).

## Industry

The Retail Industry Restart Guidance can be found [here](#).

All businesses are required to have a COVIDSafe Plan demonstrating:

- Actions to help prevent the introduction of COVID-19 and responding to suspect or confirmed cases
- Mandated use of face masks (except where exemptions apply)
- How requirements set by the Victorian Government are being met.

Some useful links for the businesses:

- [Six principles for COVIDsafe workplaces](#)
- [Face masks at work](#) which includes examples of exceptions to use.

## International Travel

Premier Daniel Andrews has indicated that Victoria will continue its suspension of international flights until at least the conclusion of the primary incubation period concludes associated with the Holiday Inn outbreak. That is, Saturday, 27 February.

## Face Masks

Face Masks must be carried at all times. Masks are mandatory when inside shopping centres, retail stores inside shopping centres, department stores, electronics stores, furniture stores, hardware stores or supermarkets, when travelling on public transport or when travelling in a commercial passenger vehicle (unless a lawful exemption applies).

Face masks are mandatory outside, where social distancing is not possible.

Face masks are mandatory, when leaving home and physical distancing cannot be maintained.

## Further Information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant, Victorian Director, JP Blandthorn on +61 407 366 304, Policy and Business Analyst, Raphael Mengem at [rmengem@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:rmengem@hawkerbritton.com), or



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Further Hawker Britton Occasional Papers on the activities of the Victorian Government are available [here](#). For further coverage of Labor Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Hawker Britton Briefs [here](#). For further coverage of Liberal Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Barton Deakin Briefs [here](#).