

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

5 August 2020

Updated restrictions

The Victorian Government has announced a number of changes to restrictions for Melbourne and regional Victoria, to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

From 6pm on 2 August, stage 4 restrictions are in place across metropolitan Melbourne. See <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/stage-4-restrictions-covid-19>

A curfew will be in operation from 8pm to 5am every evening, with people only allowed to leave their house for work, essential health, care or safety reasons.

During the day, between 5am and 8pm, people are only allowed to leave their homes for four reasons:

- To shop for necessary goods and services within a 5km radius
- To exercise within a 5km radius for only one hour
- For care and caregiving and to attend medical appointments
- For permitted work or study if this cannot be done from home

Stage 3 Stay at home restrictions apply in regional Victoria from 11:59pm on Wednesday 5 August 2020 with people only allowed to leave their homes for the four following reasons:

- Shopping for necessary goods and services
- Exercise
- For care and caregiving and to attend medical appointments
- For work or study if this cannot be done from home

These updated restrictions do not affect freight services or freight workers who live and work in Victoria, while they are performing their work.

This includes:

- Road Transport (Passenger and Freight)
- Rail Transport (Passenger and Freight) – including rail yards
- Water Transport (Passenger and Freight) – including ports and Tasmanian shipping lines
- Air Transport (Passenger and Freight)
- Pipeline and Other Transport
- Transport Support Services
- Vehicle repair, servicing and maintenance
- Towing services
- Other essential services such as roadhouses, to comply with national heavy vehicle regulation.

This will ensure that essential supplies get to where they need to go during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

There are no changes to Victoria's freight and logistics protocols which were in place for Stage 3. The Victorian protocols are:

- To help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), stay safe by regularly washing your hands, keep at least 1.5 metres from other people, and stay home if you feel unwell.
- If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) get tested. See <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19>
- There is currently no asymptomatic testing unless you are a close contact of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- If you are a close contact of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) you must get tested. See <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19>



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- A face covering is mandatory whenever you leave home, more detail can be found below in relation to driving and face coverings.

For more information, visit the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website. <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

National agreement on border closures

We're working cooperatively with our federal and state counterparts to keep freight moving to ensure essential goods get where they need to go to during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

National Cabinet considered and agreed to a Domestic Border Control Freight Movement Protocol to allow freight to move safely and efficiently across borders, and to upgrade the Protocol to an Enforceable Code by state and territory jurisdictions.

The Domestic Border Control Freight Movement Protocol includes:

- Border controls for heavy vehicle drivers, support workers and rail crew should be streamlined, standardised and recognised across jurisdictions.
- Dedicated freight lanes, wave-through of freight or prioritised entry should be provided where possible.
- Permits should be standardized and recognized across jurisdictions.
- Random checks should not unreasonably delay freight.
- Permits for support workers should be expedited to ensure heavy vehicle or train breakdowns can be attended to without delay.
- Heavy vehicle drivers and rail crew should not be required to quarantine or self-isolate for 14 days following a border crossing.

The protocol can be viewed at https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle_regulation/files/protocol-for-domestic-border-controls-freight-movements.pdf.

Until the Code takes effect, there is no change to Victorian protocols.

If you are crossing into New South Wales (NSW) or South Australian (SA) you will need to review their current requirements.

The latest border restrictions are available at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/coronavirus-response>.

Updated NSW Border Closure advice

New South Wales has temporarily shut its border with Victoria to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you need to travel into New South Wales, you can apply for a permit through the Service New South Wales website <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-covid-19-nsw-border-entry-permit> or by calling 13 77 88.

From 31 July 2020, Transport for NSW (working with NSW Health) has clarified that while a nationally consistent protocol is being developed, testing every seven days is encouraged, but is not mandatory, as part of the COVID-19 Safety Plan.

NSW Health has updated the wording in their COVID-19 Safety Plan for Transport freight and logistics operations. The plan can be accessed at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/covid-19-safety-plan-transport-freight-logistic-operations.pdf>.

Freight workers who are not able to access a test in Victoria can seek access to one in NSW. Find the nearest coronavirus (COVID-19) testing centre here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics#find-a-covid-19-testing-centre-in-nsw>.

Transport for NSW also confirms that freight workers who do not have any symptoms who have been tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) are not required to self-isolate while waiting for test results.

Changes at regional ports

To protect Victoria from imported human biosecurity risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19), pre-existing and enhanced border health measures are in place at Victoria's international airports and seaports.

All travellers arriving from overseas at Victorian airports or disembarking at maritime ports are subject to a Direction and Detention Notice (No 4), which mandates compulsory quarantine at designated hotels in the port of arrival for 14 days from the day of disembarkation.

Maritime crew undertaking vessel changeovers at the ports of Geelong and Portland are now subject to enhanced border health measures and are to be treated like other international arrivals and must go into mandatory hotel quarantine for 14 days on arrival.

Port operators may submit enquires via a dedicated email address DHHS.COVID.Ports@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Passengers in heavy vehicles

There are reports of heavy vehicles crossing borders with passengers on board.

Unless a passenger has a role as a co-driver or support worker (for example, service technician), they are not permitted in heavy vehicles crossing into other states from Victoria.

Face coverings in heavy vehicles

Following an increase in regional cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), face coverings are mandatory across all of Victoria.

Heavy vehicle drivers do not need to wear a face covering if they are driving alone. Face coverings must be worn if a driver leaves the vehicle or winds down the window to talk to someone, and at all other times when outside the home or vehicle

Doing your part to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Your workforce must apply the same practices all Victorians are expected to adhere to including face coverings, physical distancing and best-practice hygiene. These measures are essential to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and save lives.

Further information on coronavirus in the workplace is available at <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/exposure-coronavirus-workplaces>.

Further information

For more information, visit the Department of Health and Human Services website.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Freight Victoria in the Department of Transport is the central point of contact for Victorian Government industry information to help fast-track responses to your questions and address issues as they arise.

Should you have further enquiries, please direct them to freightvictoria@transport.vic.gov.au

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