

COVIDSafe Settings Update

Industry Roundtable

23 December 2021

All Victorian Businesses are required to have a COVIDSafe Plan. Need help? Visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au or call the Business Hotline 13 22 15
Do you need support? For more information on testing and support payments, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au or call 1800 675 398

Key announcements

FACE MASKS

From 11:59pm Thursday 23 December 2021, face masks **must** be worn by everyone **over the age of 8 years old:**

- in all indoor settings except for private homes
 - at all major events with over 30,000 patrons but not when seated outdoors
- with limited exceptions

VICTORIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- to book a booster as soon as possible
- work from home, if you can, this festive period
- stick to seated service in indoor **hospitality and sporting venues**
- use dancefloors in well-ventilated, outdoor areas
- wear face masks if distance cannot be maintained outdoors
- improve ventilation in premises

Reminder: (1) QR Check in everywhere, every time, and (2) get tested if symptomatic

COVID-19 is airborne and primarily spread between people breathing in very small virus-containing droplets or aerosols. If a COVID-19 infected person is present in a poorly ventilated space, the risk of aerosol transmission is higher.

TIPS TO IMPROVE VENTILATION



Open windows and leave doors open in hallways and corridors to increase outdoor airflow into the space.



Place a fan away from openable windows or door to increase air circulation within a space.



Change the settings to increase the proportion of outdoor air recirculating in the space. Install a higher-grade filter within the air handling unit.

[Some important tips on ventilation from the Chief Health Officer](#)

Pandemic Orders

- **Mandatory vaccination requirement removed** for all patrons in:
 - retail except for hair and beauty settings
 - real estate
 - places of worship
 - weddings, funerals and ceremonies (apart from those hosted in a hospitality venue)
- **Restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs** are still only open to fully vaccinated patrons and staff. **From 11:59pm 23 Dec 2021, all workers (customer facing or not) will be required to wear face masks indoors.**
- Customers under 18 **are not required to show proof of their vaccination status at venues.**
- **Workers aged 12 years and 2 months or over** must be fully vaccinated or have a valid medical exception to work onsite.
- Workplaces exposed to a positive COVID-19 case **do not need to be deep cleaned.**
- **Gyms, creative arts premises and theatres and cinemas**, do not need to clean equipment between users.

Contact management

- Workers are required to **report a positive COVID-19 diagnosis** to their workplace. Employers must then identify and inform other workers who are contacts, including sub-contractors. Employers are not mandated to notify patrons but do have reporting obligations to the Department of Health and WorkSafe and record keeping requirements to support contact tracing if required.
- **Exposed individuals (workplace contacts or social contacts) are required to get a standard PCR test within 24 hours and stay isolated until they receive a negative result.** Workers must show their workplace evidence of that result before they return to the workplace.
- **Individuals who test positive for COVID-19** will be required to isolate for 10 days.
- **Tailored outbreak management by the Department of Health may be required in some circumstances where significant transmission occurs.**
- For more information: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/confirmed-case-workplace.
- A new webpage offers clear and simple advice and a checklist for cases, contacts and workplaces: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-contacts.

CONTACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT MATRIX

Contact = any staff member or contractor who has contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in a **non-household** setting.

Case = any confirmed positive case of COVID-19.

EXPOSURE EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT

An exposure event is contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 during their infectious period.

1. The business conducts a risk assessment for each exposure event using the contact assessment and management matrix.
2. Individuals are identified as contacts or low risk. Contact lists are managed by the workplace and are not provided to the Local Public Health Unit unless specifically requested (for example, during an outbreak).
3. Individuals must follow the testing and quarantine requirements for their assessed level of risk (low risk or contact).

	No exposure	Low-risk exposure scenario: Contact with a confirmed case in their infectious period that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face-to-face (<1.5m) and transient (<1 minute) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distanced (>1.5m) and any duration in a large (>300m²) indoor space or outdoors AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>does not meet the criteria for medium or high risk</i> 	Medium-risk exposure scenario: Contact with a confirmed case in their infectious period that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face-to-face (<1.5m) and non-transient (1–15 minutes) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distanced (>1.5m) and very prolonged (>2 hours) in a medium-sized indoor space (100–300m²) AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>does not meet the criteria for high risk</i> 	High-risk exposure scenario: Contact with a confirmed case in their infectious period that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face-to-face (<1.5m) and prolonged (>15 minutes) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct physical contact (for example, shaking hands, hugging, kissing) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distanced (>1.5m) and very prolonged (>2 hours) in a small indoor space (<100m²) 	
Masks not worn*	Extremely low risk	Low risk	Contact		
Masks worn	Extremely low risk	Low risk	Low risk (if vaccinated)	Contact (if unvaccinated)	Contact

*Mask not worn by either the case or the person exposed. Incorrect mask use or a medical mask exemption is to be considered the same as 'no mask' for assessment and management.

Note: time periods are cumulative across a period of one day (for example, two separate 10-minute exposures should be assessed as a 'prolonged' (>15 min) exposure).

QUARANTINE AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

What you need to do	Low risk (and extremely low risk)	Monitor for symptoms and get PCR tested if you have any symptoms, however mild.
	Contact	<p>Quarantine and get PCR tested – initial PCR testing is mandatory and cannot be substituted with a rapid antigen test. Return to work only after you receive a negative initial PCR test result.</p> <p>Daily rapid antigen testing is strongly recommended from the day that your PCR result is obtained (when you can leave quarantine) until 7 days after exposure (for a total of five rapid antigen tests).</p>

Note: a positive rapid antigen test must be confirmed by a PCR test.

THE PRESENCE OF SYMPTOMS ALWAYS REQUIRES TESTING



Every business must have a COVIDSafe Plan

This will help businesses operate in accordance with current COVIDSafe Settings.

Your COVIDSafe Plan **must be held at the premises** and must include (amongst other things):

- the **actions you will take to prevent the introduction of COVID-19** to your workplace
- the **type of face mask or personal protective equipment (PPE)** your workforce needs
- **how you will prepare for and respond** to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in your workplace
- **how you will meet all the requirements** set out by the Victorian Government.



Review your COVIDSafe Plan regularly

Public health advice and related COVIDSafe Settings can change.

- **Review and update** your COVIDSafe Plan regularly to make sure you comply with current requirements.
- **Organisations with multiple worksites** must complete a COVIDSafe Plan for each worksite and keep a copy at each premises.
- Note that some higher-risk industries or workplaces have **additional requirements**.
- Download the latest fact sheets and resources to help you update your COVIDSafe Plan and to display at your workplace.



Financial support for Victorian workers

Financial support is available to Victorian workers who are waiting for test results or self-isolating.

The **\$450 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Test Isolation Payment** supports Victorian workers, including parents and guardians, who are required to self-isolate while waiting for the results of a coronavirus (COVID-19) test.

The **\$1500 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Worker Support Payment** is now offered through the Commonwealth Government's Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment for Victoria.

Please share this information with your workers.

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/financial-and-other-support-coronavirus-covid-19

[Posters and signs for a COVIDSafe workplace](#)

[Business grants and support](#)

[Information for industry and workers required to be vaccinated](#)

Call the Business Victoria Hotline on 13 22 15 (including public holidays)

Industry questions can be emailed to: icc@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Questions?

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