

## [Link to DHHS Victoria](#)

**Update November 18, 2021: COVID-19 Restrictions Changes and Updates Starting Thursday 18/11/2021 at 11:59 PM**

**Sources:**

### [Statement from the Premier](#)

Category	Restrictions' Changes & Updates
<i>The vaccinated economy will remain, as will masks in some high-risk settings – as both are important in reducing risk as we get back to normal.</i>	
<b>Face masks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masks will continue to be required in retail until December 15.</li><li>• Masks will still be required for primary school staff and visitors and for students in years 3 to 6, for workers serving the public at hospitality venues, for workers and customers at indoor retail, for visitors and select workers in hospitals or care facilities, and for people using public transport, taxi/rideshare and planes and anywhere it is difficult to maintain social distance.</li><li>• All others: masks are not mandatory indoors or outdoors</li></ul>
<b>Social gathering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No limits to the number of people who can gather in the home and outdoors.</li></ul>
<b>Work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fully vaccinated people can return to on-site work.</li></ul>
<b>Religion and ceremonies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No density limits for fully vaccinated</li><li>• A maximum of 50 people if vaccination status is not being checked. Masks will be required for unvaccinated services indoors. The cap at funerals doesn't include those required to conduct the funeral and the cap at weddings doesn't include the marrying couple, celebrant or photographer.</li></ul>

## Quarantine and isolation

- From 11:59pm tonight, the vast majority of people who come into contact with a confirmed positive case outside their home won't have to self-quarantine. These contacts will be required to get a standard (PCR) test and isolate until they get a negative result.
- Cases are required to notify their workplace, school or childcare about their positive result. Once informed by the case, workplaces will also have to identify and notify employees and sub-contractors – but not customers – who were exposed to advise them to get tested.
- School and workplace contacts presenting to testing centres for their PCR test will also be offered Victorian-funded rapid antigen tests (RATs) for recommended use before entering sensitive settings.
- the changes effectively mean the end of mandatory deep cleaning, and the Departmental 'clearance' process. They will self-manage their exposure in line with public health guidance. However, COVIDSafe practices are strongly encouraged and a **COVIDSafe plan is still required**.
- Individuals who test positive are strongly recommended to tell the social contacts they have spent time with and encourage them to get tested. The Department will not trace or manage these contacts. With a simple call-to-action, the advice can move faster when the individual is empowered to do it among the people they know.
- People who live with someone who has COVID-19 pose the highest transmission risk. Household contacts who have had more than four hours of contact with a case inside a household, accommodation or care setting must isolate for 7 days if fully vaccinated or 14 days if not fully vaccinated, with a PCR test required on day 0 and for release.
- If children under 12 are household contacts, they will be considered fully vaccinated if everyone else in their household aged over 12 is fully vaccinated.
- Workers exposed at work, and children who are exposed at school or early childhood centres, will need to show a negative PCR test result to return to work or school – with recommended Rapid Antigen Testing(RAT) testing thereafter.

<b>Rule Changes for the Unvaccinated</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowed to attend a private or public gathering, but it is strongly recommended that you be vaccinated.</li> <li>• You may attend a religious gathering, wedding or funeral of fewer than 50 people if vaccination status is not being checked.</li> <li>• Unvaccinated Victorians are banned from:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· All hospitality and entertainment venues, including restaurants, and cafes.</li> <li>· Non-essential retail, including department stores</li> <li>· Major events, such as festivals and concerts</li> <li>· Hairdressing, beauty and personal care</li> <li>· Creative and community facilities, such as a library</li> <li>· Religious gatherings, weddings and funerals (unless there are fewer than 50 people)</li> <li>· Travelling interstate without having to quarantine</li> <li>· Returning to the office or on-site work</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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