Directions from Acting Chief Health Officer in accordance with emergency powers arising from declared state of emergency

Stay Safe Directions (Victoria) (No 22)

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)

Section 200

I, Dr Evelyn Wong, Acting Chief Health Officer, consider it reasonably necessary to eliminate or reduce the serious risk to public health—and reasonably necessary to protect public health—to give the following directions pursuant to section 200(1)(b) and (d) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic) (PHW Act):

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

1 Preamble

(1) The purpose of these directions is to address the serious public health risk posed to the State of Victoria by the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

(2) These directions must be read together with the Directions currently in force.

(3) These directions replace the Stay Safe Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) (No 3) and the Stay Safe Directions (Regional Victoria) (No 6).

(4) These directions require everyone in the State of Victoria to:

   (a) limit interactions with others by restricting private and public gatherings; and
   
   (b) carry and wear face coverings in certain circumstances.

2 Citation

These directions may be referred to as the Stay Safe Directions (Victoria) (No 22).

3 Revocation

The Stay Safe Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) (No 3) and the Stay Safe Directions (Regional Victoria) (No 6) are revoked at 11:59:00 pm on 24 June 2021.
4 Stay safe period

For the purposes of these directions, the stay safe period is the period beginning at 11:59:00pm on 24 June 2021 and ending at 11:59:00pm on 1 July 2021.

PART 2 — STAY SAFE

5 Direction — staying safe

(1) A person in the State of Victoria must, during the stay safe period:

(a) comply with the face covering requirements in subclauses (2), (3), (4) and (5); and

(b) if attending work, do so in accordance with clause 6 (attending work); and

(c) comply with the restrictions on gatherings in clause 7 (restrictions on gatherings); and

(d) comply with the Directions currently in force, including (without limitation) by:

(i) not engaging in an activity that is prohibited under the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) while in Metropolitan Melbourne or under the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) while in Regional Victoria; and

(ii) only engaging in an activity permitted under the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) while in Metropolitan Melbourne or under the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) while in Regional Victoria in accordance with any requirements set out in those directions.

Note 1: a person should take reasonable steps to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from all other persons (except those people with whom they ordinarily reside) when leaving their premises, and should practise hand hygiene in accordance with the Department of Health’s guidelines as amended from time to time by the Victorian Government, available at: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/hygiene-physical-distancing.

Note 2: if a person experiences a temperature higher than 37.5°C or symptoms of respiratory infection, they are strongly encouraged to get a test for SARS-CoV-2 and remain at their ordinary place of residence until they obtain their test result. If they are diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2, they must self-isolate in accordance with the Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions.

Face covering requirements

(2) A person in the State of Victoria must:

(a) carry a face covering at all times, except where subclause (3)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) applies; and

(b) wear a face covering:

(i) while in an indoor space; and
(ii) while visiting a hospital; and

(iii) while in an indoor space while visiting a care facility; and

(iv) while on public transport or in a commercial passenger vehicle or in a vehicle being operated by a licensed tourism operator; and

(v) if the person is a diagnosed person or close contact and is leaving the premises in accordance with the Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Direction; and

(vi) if the person has been tested for SARS-CoV-2 and is awaiting the results of that test, except where that test was taken as part of a surveillance or other asymptomatic testing program; and

Note: the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions set out the surveillance testing requirements for relevant industries and workers.

(c) wear a face covering where required to do so in accordance with any other Directions currently in force.

Note 1: face shields on their own do not meet the face covering requirements. For further information, please refer to the Department of Health’s guidelines as amended from time to time by the Victorian Government, available at: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks.

Note 2: it is strongly recommended that face coverings be worn in other situations when physical distancing is not possible.

(3) Subclauses (2)(b) and (c) do not apply if a person complies with any other requirements under any other Directions currently in force and:

(a) the person is an infant or a child under the age of 12 years; or

(b) the person is a student while onsite at a primary school or outside school hours care; or

(c) the person is a prisoner in a prison (either in their cell or common areas), subject to any policies of that prison; or

(d) the person is detained in a remand centre, youth residential centre or youth justice centre (either in their room or common areas), subject to any policies of that centre; or

(e) the person has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable; or

Examples: persons who have obstructed breathing, a serious skin condition on their face, an intellectual disability, a mental health illness, or who have experienced trauma.

(f) it is not practicable for the person to comply with subclauses (2)(b) or (c) because the person is escaping harm or the risk of harm, including harm relating to family violence or violence of another person; or
(g) the person is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication; or

(h) the nature of a person’s work or education means that wearing a face covering creates a risk to their health and safety; or

(i) the nature of a person’s work or education means that clear enunciation or visibility of the mouth is essential; or

   Examples: teaching, lecturing, broadcasting.

(j) the person is working by themselves in an enclosed indoor space (unless and until another person enters that indoor space); or

   Example: a person working by themselves in an office.

(k) the person is visiting a person with whom they are in an intimate personal relationship in accordance with clause 7(2)(i); or

(l) the person is attending a permitted social gathering in accordance with clause 7(2)(j); or

(m) the person is one of two persons being married while in the process of being married; or

(n) the person is a professional sportsperson when training or competing; or

(o) the person is engaged in any strenuous physical exercise; or

   Examples: jogging, running, swimming, cycling.

(p) the person is riding a bicycle or a motorcycle; or

(q) the person is travelling in a vehicle by themselves or where each other person in the vehicle ordinarily resides at the same premises; or

(r) the person is consuming food, drink or medicine; or

(s) the person is smoking or vaping (including e-cigarettes) while stationary; or

(t) the person is undergoing dental or medical care or treatment to the extent that such care or treatment requires that no face covering be worn; or

(u) the person is receiving a service from a facility which is permitted to operate under, and is operating in accordance with, the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) or the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria), to the extent that it is not reasonably practicable to receive that service wearing a face covering; or

(v) the person is providing a service from a facility which is permitted to operate under, and is operating in accordance with, the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) or the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria), to the extent that it is not reasonably practicable to provide that service wearing a face covering; or
(w) the person is an accused person in a criminal case in any court located in the State of Victoria and the person is in the dock either alone or with a co-accused, provided that any co-accused also present in the dock is at least 1.5 metres away from the person; or

(x) the person is asked to remove the face covering to ascertain identity; or

Example: a person may be asked by police, security, bank or post office staff to remove a face covering to ascertain identity or when purchasing alcohol or cigarettes.

(y) for emergency purposes; or

(z) when required or authorised by law; or

(aa) when doing so is not safe in all the circumstances.

Face covering requirements in airports and on aircraft

(4) Without limiting subclause (2)(b), during the stay safe period, a person in the State of Victoria at an airport or travelling in an aircraft must:

(a) carry a face covering at all times, except where subclause (5)(a) or (b) applies; and

(b) wear a face covering while in an indoor space at an airport (and at all times while inside an aircraft); and

(c) wear a face covering where required to do so in accordance with any other Directions currently in force.

Note: face shields on their own do not meet the face covering requirements. For further information, please refer to the Department of Health’s guidelines as amended from time to time by the Victorian Government, available at: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks.

(5) Subclauses (4)(b) and (c) do not apply if a person complies with any other requirements under any other Directions currently in force and:

(a) the person is an infant or a child under the age of 12 years; or

(b) the person has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable; or

Example: persons who have obstructed breathing, a serious skin condition on their face, an intellectual disability, a mental health illness, or who have experienced trauma.

(c) the person is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication; or

(d) the nature of a person’s work or education means that wearing a face covering creates a risk to their health and safety; or

(e) the nature of a person’s work or education means that clear enunciation or visibility of the mouth is essential; or

Example: teaching, lecturing, broadcasting.
(f) the person is consuming food, drink or medicine; or

(g) the person is undergoing dental or medical care or treatment to the extent that such care or treatment requires that no face covering be worn; or

(h) the person is receiving a service from a facility which is permitted to operate under, and is operating in accordance with, the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) or the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria), to the extent that it is not reasonably practicable to receive that service wearing a face covering; or

(i) the person is providing a service from a facility which is permitted to operate under, and is operating in accordance with, the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) or the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria), to the extent that it is not reasonably practicable to provide that service wearing a face covering; or

(j) the person is asked to remove the face covering to ascertain identity; or

Examples: a person may be asked by police, security, or airport staff to remove a face covering to ascertain identity or when purchasing alcohol or cigarettes.

(k) for emergency purposes; or

(l) when required or authorised by law; or

(m) when doing so is not safe in all the circumstances.

(6) An authorised officer may require a person to attest in writing that they have complied with the requirements of subclause (4) to wear a face covering on an aircraft (subject to subclause (5)).

PART 3 — WORK

6 Attending work

A person may attend work (whether paid or voluntary, including for charitable or religious purposes) at an office-based work premises in the State of Victoria if the person who has employed or engaged the person to work has advised that it is permissible for them to do so in accordance with the Directions currently in force.

Note 1: the Workplace Directions and the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions address how certain workplaces should facilitate onsite work.

Note 2: these Directions do not restrict persons attending work premises other than office-based work premises in the State of Victoria from travelling to another State or Territory to attend work. Persons travelling to another State or Territory to attend work must comply with the requirements under that State or
PART 4 — GATHERINGS

7 Restrictions on gatherings

Private gatherings

(1) During the stay safe period, a person must not permit another person to enter any premises at which they are residing in the State of Victoria (whether or not entering any building on the premises).

(2) Subclause (1) does not prevent any person entering the premises:
   (a) if the other person also ordinarily resides at the premises; or
   (b) if permitted under, and provided they comply with the requirements of, the Directions currently in force; or
   (c) to provide or receive necessary goods or services; or
   (d) to attend or undertake work in accordance with clause 6 (attending work); or
      
      Examples: a tradesperson for the purpose of carrying out repairs, a disability support worker, a vet, a person for end of life faith reasons.

      Note: this includes a person who provides professional respite care for carers of people with complex needs, where that professional is permitted to work in accordance with the Directions currently in force.

   (e) to provide childcare, child-minding, early childhood education, schooling or education services (whether paid or on a voluntary basis); or
   (f) to meet obligations in relation to shared parenting arrangements or family contact arrangements, whether the arrangements are under a court order or otherwise; or
   (g) if that person is a parent or guardian of a child who ordinarily resides at the premises:
      (i) to visit that child; or
      (ii) to meet any obligations in relation to care or support for that child; or
      (iii) to take the child to another person’s premises for the purpose of that other person providing child-minding assistance; or
   (h) to provide care and support to a relative or other person who ordinarily resides at the premises and:
      (i) who has particular needs because of age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition; or
(ii) because of matters relating to the relative or other person’s health (including mental health or pregnancy); or

(i) to visit someone who ordinarily resides at those premises and with whom they are in an intimate personal relationship; or

Note: people in an intimate personal relationship may stay overnight at each other’s ordinary places of residence, and are not required to wear a face covering while visiting each other at those premises, provided they otherwise comply with these directions.

(j) if the person is visiting for a social gathering, provided that there is no one else at the premises except for:

(i) those persons who ordinarily reside at those premises and any other persons with whom those people are in an intimate personal relationship; and

(ii) no more than fourteen other persons who is visiting for a social gathering; and

(iii) any infant under one year of age of a person visiting for a social gathering,

and provided that the premises does not have more than fifteen visitors for a social gathering each day; or

Note: under subclause (2)(j), only fifteen people may visit for a social gathering each day, with any infant under one year of age not counting towards this limit.

(k) to attend a wedding or funeral, if that wedding or funeral complies with the requirements in subclauses (5) or (6); or

(l) if the premises in which the person ordinarily resides is no longer available to, or is no longer suitable for, the person; or

(m) to attend an inspection of real estate for the purposes of a prospective sale or rental of the property; or

(n) for the purpose of moving to the premises as the place where they will ordinarily reside; or

(o) to escape harm or the risk of harm, including harm relating to family violence or violence of another person; or

(p) for medical or emergency purposes (other than emergency maintenance); or

(q) if a person owns or has responsibilities in relation to an animal, to meet obligations to sustain the life and wellbeing of that animal; or

(r) for purposes relating to the administration of justice; or

(s) as required or authorised by law; or

(t) for the purposes of national security.
Note: subclauses (1) and (2) do not apply to a care facility. Any regulation of access and visits to care facilities is contained in the Care Facilities Directions.

(3) If a person who enters a premises in accordance with subclause (2) is a parent, guardian or carer of a child or dependant and they cannot access any alternative care arrangement (whether on a paid or voluntary basis) or leave their child or dependant unattended so that they can enter the premises in accordance with subclause (2) without the child or dependant, then the child or dependant may accompany that person when entering the premises in accordance with subclause (2).

Public gatherings

(4) During the stay safe period, a person in the State of Victoria must not arrange to meet, or organise or intentionally attend a gathering of, more than 49 other persons (with any infant under one year of age not counting towards this limit) for a common purpose at a public place, except:

Note 1: under subclause (4), the limit on the number of people who may meet in a public place at any one time is 50.

Note 2: two or more groups of 50 cannot meet for a common purpose at a public place. In addition, a group in a public place must take reasonable steps to maintain a safe distance from any other groups in that public place.

Note 3: subclause (4) does not prevent a person attending a public place (for example, a shopping centre) for a purpose (for example, shopping), where other people are also likely to be attending that public place for a similar purpose. It prevents people from attending a public place intending to gather with other people for a common purpose (for example, meeting family or friends at the shopping centre).

(a) where each other person ordinarily resides at the same premises; or

(b) for the purpose of a religious gathering (including ceremonies) provided they comply with any requirements of the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) or the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) as applicable; or

(c) for the purpose of attending a wedding in the State of Victoria that complies with the requirements in subclause (5); or

(d) for the purpose of attending a funeral in the State of Victoria that complies with the requirements in subclause (6); or

(e) it is necessary to arrange a meeting, or organise or attend a gathering, for one or more of the following purposes:

(i) engaging in an activity permitted under, and provided they comply with any requirements of, the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) or the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) as applicable; or

(ii) to attend or undertake work in accordance with clause 6 (attending work); or
(iii) medical or emergency purposes; or
(iv) purposes as required or authorised by law; or
(v) purposes relating to the administration of justice.

Note: a person may leave the premises at which they ordinarily reside using transport (public or private) regardless of how many people are on the tram, train, or bus or in the vehicle.

Weddings and funerals

(5) The requirements for a wedding held in the State of Victoria are that:

(a) if held at a person’s ordinary place of residence, it complies with the private gathering restrictions in subclauses (1) and (2); and

Note: the exceptions to subclause (1) in subclause (2) apply in respect of weddings held at a person’s ordinary place of residence, including in respect of other persons who reside at the premises (subclause (2)(a)), persons undertaking work (subclause (2)(d)), persons in intimate personal relationships (subclause (2)(i)) and social gatherings of fifteen persons (subclause (2)(j)).

(b) if held in a public place, it complies with the public gathering restrictions in subclause (4); and

(c) if held at a place other than a person’s ordinary place of residence or a public place:

(i) it involves no more than:

(A) the two persons being married; and
(B) the authorised celebrant; and
(C) the wedding **photographer**; and
(D) 298 other persons (with any infant under one year of age not counting towards this limit), including two persons witnessing the marriage for the purposes of section 44 of the Marriage Act 1961 of the Commonwealth; and

(ii) it complies with the requirements of the **Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne)** or the **Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria)** as applicable.

Note: record-keeping requirements apply to weddings as set out in the **Workplace Directions**.

(6) The requirements for a funeral held in the State of Victoria are that:

(a) if held at a person’s ordinary place of residence, it complies with the private gathering restrictions in subclauses (1) and (2); and

Note: the exceptions to subclause (1) in subclause (2) apply in respect of funerals held at a person’s ordinary place of residence, including in respect of other persons who reside at the premises (subclause (2)(a)), persons undertaking work (subclause (2)(d)), persons in intimate personal relationships (subclause (2)(i)) and social gatherings of fifteen persons (subclause (2)(j)).
relationships (subclause (2)(i)) and social gatherings of fifteen persons (subclause (2)(j)).

(b) if held in a public place, it complies with the public gathering restrictions in subclause (4); and

(c) if held at a place other than a person’s ordinary place of residence or a public place:

(i) it involves no more than:

   (A) 300 members of the public (with any infant under one year of age not counting towards this limit); and

   (B) no more than the minimum number of persons reasonably necessary for the conduct of the funeral; and

(ii) it complies with the requirements of the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) or the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) as applicable.

Note: record-keeping requirements apply to funerals as set out in the Workplace Directions.

PART 5 — OTHER PROVISIONS

8 Relationship with other Directions

(1) If there is any inconsistency between Parts 2, 3 and 4 of these directions and the Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions, Parts 2, 3 and 4 of these directions are inoperative to the extent of any inconsistency.

(2) If there is any inconsistency between these directions and a direction or other requirement contained in a Direction and Detention Notice, these directions are inoperative to the extent of the inconsistency.

(3) If there is any inconsistency between these directions and a direction or other requirement contained in the Care Facilities Directions, these directions are inoperative to the extent of the inconsistency.

(4) Unless the context otherwise requires, a reference in any Directions currently in force, in any Direction and Detention Notice, or in any approved form under a Direction currently in force or a Direction and Detention Notice to:

   (a) a Direction currently in force or these directions, or a defined term in a Direction currently in force or these directions, will be taken to mean that direction (and hence that defined term) as amended or replaced from time to time; or

   (b) an earlier version of a particular Direction currently in force or these directions will be taken to be a reference to the current version of that particular direction.
9 Definitions

For the purposes of these directions:

(1) **aircraft** means an aircraft that is mainly used for the purpose of, or is engaged, or is intended or likely to be engaged, in a flight wholly within Australia;

(2) **airport** means an aerodrome at which facilities are available for the arrival or departure of **aircraft** into or from the State of Victoria;

(3) **authorised celebrant** has the same meaning as in the **Marriage Act 1961** of the Commonwealth;

(4) **authorised officer** has the same meaning as in the **PHW Act**;

(5) **bus company** has the same meaning as in **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**;

(6) **Care Facilities Directions** means **Care Facilities Directions (No 34)** as amended or replaced from time to time;

(7) **care facility** has the same meaning as in the **Care Facilities Directions**;

(8) **childcare or early childhood service** means onsite early childhood education and care services or children’s services provided under the:

   (a) **Education and Care Services National Law** and the **Education and Care Services National Regulations** including long day care services, kindergarten/preschool and family day care services, but does not include outside school hours care services; and

   (b) **Children’s Services Act 1996** including limited hours services, budget based funded services, occasional care services, early childhood intervention services, mobile services and (if applicable) school holiday care programs;

(9) **commercial passenger vehicle** has the same meaning as in the **Workplace Directions**;

(10) **Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions** means the **Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions (No 23)** as amended or replaced from time to time;

(11) **Direction and Detention Notice** means a notice given to a person requiring the person to be detained for a specified period;

(12) **Directions currently in force** means the **Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne)**, the **Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria)**, the **Stay Safe Directions (Victoria)**, the **Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions**, the **Hospital Visitor Directions**, the **Care Facilities Directions**, the **Workplace Directions**, the **Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions** and the **Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions**, each as amended or replaced from time to time;

(13) **face covering** means a fitted face mask that covers the nose and mouth to provide the wearer protection against infection (but does not include a face shield);
(14) hospital has the same meaning as in the Hospital Visitor Directions;

(15) Hospital Visitor Directions means the Hospital Visitor Directions (No 30) as amended or replaced from time to time;

(16) indoor space means an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls that are permanent structures rising either from floor to ceiling or are at least 2.1 metres high, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are open or closed;

(17) licensed tourism operator has the same meaning as in the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne);

(18) members of the public has the same meaning as in the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne);

(19) national security has the meaning that security has in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979 of the Commonwealth;

(20) passenger transport company has the same meaning as in Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983;

(21) photographer means a person who takes photographs as a business and has an Australian Business Number for this purpose;

(22) premises means:
   (a) a building, or part of a building; and
   (b) any land on which the building is located, other than land that is available for communal use;

(23) prison has the same meaning as in the Corrections Act 1986;

(24) prisoner has the same meaning as in the Corrections Act 1986;

(25) public transport means a vehicle operated by a passenger transport company or by a bus company in the provision of public transport service;

(26) public transport service has the same meaning as in Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983;

(27) remand centre has the same meaning as in the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005;

(28) Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) means the Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) (No 5) as amended or replaced from time to time;

(29) Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) means the Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) (No 5) as amended or replaced from time to time;

(30) school means a registered school as defined in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006;

(31) stay safe period has the meaning in clause 4;

(32) vehicle has the same meaning as in the PHW Act;
(33) **Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions** means the **Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions (No 17)** as amended or replaced from time to time;

(34) **Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions** means the **Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions (No 29)** as amended or replaced from time to time;

(35) **Workplace Directions** means the **Workplace Directions (No 34)** as amended or replaced from time to time;

(36) **youth justice centre** has the same meaning as in the **Children, Youth and Families Act 2005**;

(37) **youth residential centre** has the same meaning as in the **Children, Youth and Families Act 2005**.

10 **Penalties**

Section 203 of the PHW Act provides:

**Compliance with direction or other requirement**

(1) A person must not refuse or fail to comply with a direction given to the person, or a requirement made of the person, in the exercise of a power under an authorisation given under section 199.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;

In the case of a body corporate, 600 penalty units.

(2) A person is not guilty of an offence against subsection (1) if the person had a reasonable excuse for refusing or failing to comply with the direction or requirement.

*Note: section 209 of the PHW Act provides for infringement notices to be served on any person who has refused or failed to comply with a direction given to the person, or a requirement made of the person, in the exercise of a power under an authorisation given under section 199. The amount payable pursuant to the infringement notice varies depending on the nature of the failure or refusal and the age of the person.*

Dr Evelyn Wong

Acting Chief Health Officer, as authorised to exercise emergency powers under section 199(2)(a) of the PHW Act.

24 June 2021