

# Statement

The Hon Dan Andrews MP  
Premier



Sunday, 27 September 2020

## STATEMENT FROM THE PREMIER

Seven weeks ago, our average case numbers were peaking at more than 400 every single day. Today, Melbourne's rolling case average is 22.1.

It's a remarkable thing – and an achievement that belongs to every single Victorian.

Because with grit and with guts and with heart – we are beating this thing.

We are driving it down.

We are winning.

Thanks to those efforts, and on the advice of our public health team, I can confirm that from 11:59pm tonight, Melbourne will enter the Second Step towards reopening.

I can also confirm, again on the advice of our public health team, that we are further ahead than we'd hoped for.

The latest modelling shows that our strategy is working. Not only have we been able to drive down cases from the hundreds – we're well on-track to hit single digits in the next few weeks.

That allows us to make some small, but significant changes.

Firstly, our move to the Third and Last Steps will no longer be defined by dates in the calendar.

Instead, the "trigger point" for review by our public health team will be based solely on reaching our case number targets. That means the sooner we hit those targets – the sooner we can consider our next steps.

It also means that getting back to the things we love – seeing more of the people we love – not only is achievable, it's in our hands.

Making sure we have enough time to evaluate the impact, movement between steps will be spaced at least three weeks apart.

This, and based on the current projections, means we'll be in a position to consider our next Step by mid-October.

Those same projections have enabled us to make a few small changes to our Second Step too.

Under the existing roadmap, onsite learning for VCE, VCAL and Prep to Grade Two was set to resume onsite learning from October 12.

Because we're slightly ahead of where the modelling had put us – and in good news for many parents – we've been able to expand that to all primary school students.

As always, we'll continue to review the return of remaining year levels on a regular basis.

There are a few other areas where we've been able to go a little bit further to make life a little bit easier.

For example, private inspections can resume for real estate. Weddings can take place with up to five people.

Apprentices and uni students in their final year of study will be able to attend onsite for learning and assessment where necessary.

In a really meaningful change for many families, the rules around visiting hospitals and care facilities will also be slightly relaxed.

And because we said we'd lift it the moment we could – and the Chief Health Officer's advice is the success of our current numbers means we can – the curfew will no longer be in place after tonight.

None of these changes though are a sign we can take our foot off the pedal. The fine for gatherings – having visitors over to your home, meeting outdoors in big groups – will be increased to the same penalty for travelling into regional Victoria without a valid reason. That is, almost \$5000.

Under the Second Step, we've also been able to make sure more Victorians – 127,000 Victorians – can get back to work.

The workforce limits for some industries will be expanded. Supermarkets and food distribution centres, for example, will return to full capacity. Abattoirs, seafood and meat processing plants will also increase, in line with the levels we know are safe.

At the same time, and recognising the increased risk in some of these environments, there'll be additional obligations for employers, including regular surveillance testing of staff, nightly deep cleaning, separating workers into consistent bubbles, and providing regular training for their workers.

Manufacturing can return with up to 90 per cent of its workforce. Sole traders doing outside gardening and landscaping can return. Retail pet grooming will also resume.

We'll also be able to enact those changes laid out in the existing roadmap.

From 11:59pm tonight, groups of up to five from across a maximum of two households can meet outdoors. Outdoor pools will open, and personal training can resume with a maximum of two people and their trainer.

Childcare centres can reopen, with kinder to open from Term 4 too.

Recognising a number of important upcoming events for many of our religious communities, gatherings of up to five people can meet with their faith leader outdoors.

More of our medical, health and allied professionals will also be able to offer face to face services for non-urgent care.

And of course, reaching the Second Step means we can begin to slowly ramp up elective surgery to 75 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.

With all of these changes, though, comes increased responsibility to keep each other safe.

To get tested when you're sick. To keep your distance when you're out. To follow the rules and listen to the health advice.

It also means continuing to wear a face covering. And with more people moving across our city, our public health team have advised the rules around wearing a mask need to be strengthened.

Victorians will now be required to wear a fitted face mask, covering the nose and mouth. Some of the concessions we made as we adjusted to this new normal – things like wearing a scarf or a bandana or a face shield – will no longer apply.

As I've said before, wearing a face covering is a small sacrifice – but it makes a huge difference in keeping all of us safe. Because fundamentally, that's what all of this comes down to.

None of it's easy. But all of it matters.

And every day, and every Victorian, is getting us that much closer to the other side.

Whether you call it the final quarter, the home stretch, or the last push – we're nearly there.

We've got this.

# METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE – THE SECOND STEP

Changes apply from 11:59pm Sunday, 27 September 2020.

Density requirements, cleaning, signage and record keeping requirements continue to apply for many of these venues and facilities



Category	First Step	Second Step
Reasons to leave your home	<p><b>Stay home unless</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shopping for essential goods (1 person per household, once a day, within 5km of home)</li> <li>• Caregiving or compassionate reasons</li> <li>• Work or education (if a permitted worker or learner)</li> <li>• Exercise (2 hours per day within 5km from home, and can drive to undertake exercise)</li> <li>• Other specified reasons (specific exemptions apply)</li> </ul> <p><b>Intrastate travel:</b> not allowed unless for permitted purpose</p> <p><b>Local Government elections:</b> can leave home for letterboxing as a candidate, employee or volunteer</p>	<p><b>Stay at home unless:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shopping for essential goods (No limit to the number of people from one household that can leave to shop for necessary goods or services so long as group aligns with public gathering requirements).</li> <li>• Caregiving or compassionate reasons</li> <li>• Work or education (if a permitted worker or learner)</li> <li>• Exercise (2 hours per day within 5km from home or permitted workplace, and can drive to undertake exercise)</li> <li>• Other specified reasons (specific exemptions apply)</li> </ul> <p><b>Curfew:</b> does not apply from 5am 28 September 2020</p> <p><b>Intrastate travel:</b> not allowed unless for permitted purpose</p> <p><b>Local Government elections:</b> can leave home for letterboxing as a candidate, employee or volunteer</p> <p><b>Face coverings:</b> A face covering means a face mask that covers the nose and mouth. Face shields on their own do not meet these requirements. There will be a one-week grace period in enforcement.</p> <p><b>End of life:</b> A terminally ill person plus up to 10 people or a household can meet outdoors, attend entertainment or a recreation venue. Children under 12 months of age are excluded from the limit. This will be signed off by the CHO or the DCHO in each individual case.</p> <p><b>Resting place:</b> A person may attend the resting place (a cemetery or columbarium) of a deceased relative for remembering a key milestone (e.g. birthday, date of death, anniversary). Exempt from the 5km rule, but can only travel to the resting place if it is within metropolitan Melbourne and must observe gathering requirements. Gathering limits are a household or up to five people from a maximum of two households.</p>

**If you can work from home, you must continue to work from home. For up-to-date information, visit [www.vic.gov.au/roadmap](http://www.vic.gov.au/roadmap)**

Category	First Step	Second Step
Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary and secondary students:</b> onsite learning only for children of persons unable to work/study from home, vulnerable children and specialist schools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Primary and secondary students:</b> Phased return to onsite learning in Term 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>From 5 October</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o VCE and VCAL students (including Yr 10 students in VCE) can attend onsite for General Achievement Test and essential assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>From 12 October</b> students return to onsite learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o All primary school students return to on-site learning</li> <li>o VCE and VCAL students (including Yr 10 students in VCE) return to onsite learning</li> <li>o specialist schools return to on-site learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Return to onsite learning of Year 7-10 secondary students will be considered following further public health advice</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Tertiary education:</b> Final year students and teachers in metropolitan Melbourne who require access to in-person to teaching, assessment and/or work placements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher education: final year students who would not graduate by the end of January 2021 (i.e. even with extended delivery into summer) can return on site for teaching, assessment and/or work placements to complete their qualifications.</li> <li>• VET: includes final year apprenticeship students</li> </ul>
Gatherings of people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public gatherings:</b> a person cannot meet more than one other person for a common purpose at a public place</li> <li>• <b>Home:</b> Single person households or single parent households can have one nominated visitor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Bubble cannot cross between metro and regional</li> <li>o Face coverings must be worn</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Social interaction:</b> Two people or a household can meet outdoors for social interaction</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public gatherings:</b> A household or a limit of five people from two households can meet outdoors for social interaction. Children under 12 months of age are not included in the limit. Must be an outdoor space that is public.</p> <p><b>Home: Single person households or single parent households can have one nominated visitor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bubble cannot cross between metro and regional</li> <li>• Face coverings must be worn</li> </ul>

Category	First Step	Second Step
Sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Physical recreational facility:</b> can open only for the exclusive use of training for professional and high-performance sports persons, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a facility used predominantly for outdoor sport or physical recreation;</li> <li>○ a personal training facility;</li> <li>○ a swimming pool at a non-residential premises</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Publicly accessible playgrounds:</b> open, outdoor only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exercise</b> is allowed within 5km of your home, or 5km from your workplace if you are on the permitted worker list (you must carry your permit)</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor exercise:</b> Allowed in line with public gathering limits, within 5km, only where facilities are not required.</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor personal training:</b> limited to 2 people, plus the personal trainer, but excluding children under 12 months. Equipment sharing is not permitted, and the trainer must wear a mask.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor physical recreational facilities:</b> can be used for the purposes of education and work, including exclusive use of training for professional and high-performance sports persons or exclusive use by a school, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a facility used predominantly for outdoor sport or physical recreation;</li> <li>○ a personal training facility;</li> <li>○ a swimming pool at a non-residential premises</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Outdoor pools:</b> permitted to open for exercise only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Toilets at outdoor pools can be open, but changing rooms are closed</li> <li>○ People allowed in a pool is the lower of the density quotient or 20 people</li> <li>○ People unable to congregate around a pool</li> <li>○ Exception to cap where exclusive use by a single school at any one time for education purposes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Publicly accessible playgrounds:</b> open, outdoor only</li> <li>• <b>Playcentres:</b> closed</li> <li>• <b>Skateparks:</b> closed</li> <li>• <b>Trampolining centres:</b> closed</li> </ul>
Community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Libraries and toy libraries:</b> only open to facilitate collection and return of books/toys or home delivery</li> <li>• <b>Community venues:</b> closed except for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hosting an essential public support service</li> <li>○ Hosting an essential support group</li> <li>○ Hosting a wedding or funeral</li> <li>○ Providing an exclusive venue for a single school at any one time for educational purposes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>No change</b></p>

Category	First Step	Second Step
Childcare facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Childcare:</b> Only children whose parents have a childcare permit and vulnerable children</li> <li>• <b>In-home child minding:</b> Existing arrangements (paid or unpaid) can continue for Permitted workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Childcare:</b> Open to all children, permit no longer required, the 5km limit does not apply</li> <li>• <b>In-home child minding:</b> Allowed for all children, only one child minder external to the household is permitted at any one time.</li> </ul>
Care facilities and hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Visitation for patients or residents over 18:</b> only 1 visitor, once per day, for a maximum of 1 hour.</li> <li>• <b>Visitation for patients under 18:</b> only one visitor at any one time</li> <li>• <b>Visitation:</b> allowed for essential care and support for emotional and social wellbeing</li> <li>• <b>Close contacts:</b> Residential aged care facilities may, jointly with the Chief Health Officer (or a person authorised by the Chief Health Officer), determine whether workers at the facility who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with 2019-nCoV may continue to work at the facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Visitation for patients or residents over 18:</b> extended to only 1 visitor, once per day, for a maximum of 2 hours.</li> <li>• <b>Visitation for patients under 18:</b> Two parents or carers of a patient under 18 years of age in a hospital may visit at the same time with no time limit.</li> <li>• <b>Visitation for emotional and social wellbeing:</b> inclusion of cultural and spiritual wellbeing, provision of informal language support.</li> </ul>
Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take-away and delivery only</li> <li>• Exceptions for hospitals, RACFs, childcare, prisons, defence, fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle areas, workplaces and where providing to homelessness persons.</li> </ul>	<b>No change</b>
Shopping, retail and personal services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Retail and personal care:</b> closed</li> <li>• <b>Real estate auctions:</b> remote auctions only.</li> <li>• <b>Real estate inspections:</b> Services related to property settlement or commencement/end-of-lease (including removalists) permitted under Permitted Work Premises List.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Retail and personal care:</b> closed</li> <li>• <b>Real estate auctions:</b> remote auctions only.</li> <li>• <b>Real estate inspections:</b> Private property and display home inspections allowed with 1 agent and 1 prospective purchaser or tenant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The prospective purchaser or tenant may be accompanied by 1 other person from an existing household or an intimate partner, and the prospective purchaser or tenant's children under 18 years old.</li> <li>o 'contactless' with protocols for inspections, including pre-arranged at a set time and limited to 15 minutes.</li> <li>o A person is not permitted to travel to regional Victoria for a private property inspection, and a person may not travel to metropolitan Melbourne for a private property inspection.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Category	First Step	Second Step
Ceremonies and religious gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Religious ceremonies and private worship:</b> not allowed; a maximum of 5 people can attend a place of worship to conduct ceremony being broadcast.</li> <li>• <b>Weddings:</b> on compassionate grounds only</li> <li>• <b>Funerals:</b> up to 10 people, plus infants under 12 months and people to conduct funeral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Religious ceremonies broadcast:</b> a maximum of 5 people can attend a place of worship to conduct ceremony being broadcast.</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor religious gatherings and ceremonies:</b> permitted with a limit of five people, plus one faith leader. Must be adjacent to the place of worship with only one group permitted at a time. Sharing of food, drink, crockery, utensils, vessels or other equipment by participants is not permitted.</li> <li>• <b>Weddings</b> permitted in outdoor public spaces with a maximum of 5 attendees, including the couple and two witnesses, but not including the celebrant. Weddings do not need to occur proximate to a place of worship.</li> <li>• <b>Funerals:</b> up to 10 people, plus infants under 12 months and people to conduct funeral</li> </ul>
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed, except for permitted purposes.</li> </ul>	<b>No change</b>
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vehicle repairs:</b> vehicle repairs and critical maintenance permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vehicle maintenance:</b> safety inspections and maintenance or repairs, including scheduled/logbook servicing, is permitted.</li> <li>• <b>Boat maintenance:</b> marine and specialist mechanics permitted to operate when required for safe operation including scheduled/logbook inspections</li> </ul>
Healthcare and Social Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professional respite</b></li> <li>• <b>Public dental clinics:</b> providing urgent care only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Telehealth services</b> must be preferred as the first option for care delivery and provided where and as appropriate</li> <li>• <b>Dental clinics:</b> recommencement of non-urgent services with COVIDSafe Plan in place.</li> <li>• All <b>AHPRA registered health workers</b> – and in addition, social work, speech pathology, dietetics, audiology, exercise physiology, orthotists and prosthetists – may provide some face to face services</li> </ul>
Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Work</b> from home unless you are in a permitted industry</li> <li>• <b>COVIDSafe Plan:</b> Businesses with more than 5 workers onsite are required to have a COVIDSafe Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Work</b> from home unless you are in a permitted industry</li> <li>• <b>Work:</b> partial return to work for childcare, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, postal and distribution, dental services, allied health, elective surgery, outdoor sole traders (gardening, landscaping and garden maintenance businesses), pet grooming, real estate, and limited higher education and VET staff.</li> <li>• <b>COVIDSafe Plan:</b> All businesses will be required to have a COVIDSafe Plan except businesses with no onsite operations (e.g. working from home). The exemption for workplaces with less than five workers onsite will no longer apply.</li> </ul>