

First Nations Guide to COVID-19 Laws - Victoria

2 November 2020



Governments have introduced wide-ranging temporary measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and keep communities safe. The police have powers to enforce these public health directions.

This may change your daily life and what communities can do together. Where you live may affect what you can do.

This information sheet explains the public health directions in Victoria and the powers of the police.

Directions and police powers are changing regularly and so it is important to check for any updates.

The State of Emergency and State of Disaster in Victoria have been extended until 8 November 2020.

A. Public health laws - Social distancing and travel within communities

Restricted Areas: Metropolitan Melbourne

If you live in **Metropolitan Melbourne**, from 11:59pm on 27 October 2020, the Stay at Home Directions have now been revoked.

There are no restrictions on the reasons you can leave home, however, there are limits on the distance you can travel across Melbourne, attending public gatherings, inviting visitors to your home, education and childcare, work, recreation, travel and ceremonies.

See the next page for more detail on what you can do in Metropolitan Melbourne.

Metropolitan Melbourne includes:

Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Brimbank, Cardinia, Casey, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melbourne, Melton, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Wyndham, Yarra and Yarra Ranges.

Non-Restricted Areas: Regional Victoria

From 11:59pm on 27 October 2020, if you live in Regional Victoria, including Mitchell Shire, there are no restrictions on the reasons you can leave home or the distance you can travel across regional Victoria, however, there are limits on public gatherings, visitors to the home, education and childcare, work, recreation, travel, ceremonies and the reasons you can travel into Metropolitan Melbourne.

Do I have to wear a mask?

Yes. From 11:59pm 2 August 2020, everyone in Victoria must wear a face covering when they leave home, no matter where they live.

A mask must cover your nose and mouth. You can use a scarf or bandana to cover your nose and mouth if you do not own a mask.

You do not have to wear a mask if:

- You have medical reasons why you cannot wear a mask
- You are under the age of 12
- You are a student while onsite at a primary school or outside school hours care
- You are communicating with someone who is deaf, hard of hearing or mouth visibility is essential for communication
- You are doing strenuous physical exercise. Strenuous exercise includes activities like jogging, running or cycling, but not walking
- If your profession requires clear enunciation or visibility of their mouth
- If you are working on your own property with members of your household, but no staff or contractors on site
- When directed to remove it for identification reasons
- During emergencies

- If you are communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and seeing their mouth is essential for communication
- You are working by yourself in an enclosed indoor space
- You are working by yourself in an outdoor space
- You are one of two persons getting married
- You are travelling by yourself or with someone else in a vehicle
- You are consuming food, drink or medicine
- You are smoking or vaping (including e-cigarettes)

You should still carry your mask with you, even if you do not have to wear the mask.

If you do not wear a mask, you may be fined \$200.

What do I have to do if outside of the home?

In addition to wearing a mask, everyone must practice **social distancing**, which means reducing contact between you and other people in the community to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are outside, you need to:

- stay at least 1.5 metres away from other people
- make sure there is only 1 person per 4 square metres

Living in a Restricted Area (in Metropolitan Melbourne)

If you live in Metropolitan Melbourne, there are no restrictions on the reasons you can leave home, however, you cannot travel further than 25km and there are limits on public gatherings, visitors to the home, education and childcare, work, recreation, travel and ceremonies. a number of restrictions still in place.

When you leave the house, you must wear a mask, practice social distancing and comply with all restrictions on gatherings.

You can leave the house for any reason, including to:

- Attend work
- Visit a restaurant with up to nine other people
- Visit retail stores, hairdressing, beauty and personal care
- Obtain educational services where students are undertaking VCE, VCAL or VETiS, enrolled in special schools, are vulnerable young persons
- Tertiary education can also occur where not reasonably practicable to occur remotely

- Provide care and support for health reasons or child-minding services
- Visit the home of one person per day. There can only be one visitor (plus that person's children) visiting another person's home each day
- Exercise or meet outdoors for social interaction with up to 9 other people. Two or more groups of 10 cannot meet for a common purpose at a public place. You should use the parks and public spaces which are closest to your home. To stop the spread of COVID-19, you cannot travel to Regional Victoria to exercise
- Visit indoor and outdoor entertainment facilities e.g. cinemas, galleries, museums, arenas and zoos
- Attend an auction, private inspection of a premises or move home
- Play sport at outdoor facilities e.g. golf or tennis
- Play professional sports
- Go to an outdoor skate park
- Play outdoor sports with up to 9 people
- Attend religious gatherings and ceremonies of up to 10 people indoors or 20 persons outdoors
- Attend a funeral (no more than 20 guests)
- Attend a wedding (limited to ten guests, the couple, the celebrant and a photographer)

How far can I travel to?

If you live in a Restricted Area

If you live in a Restricted Area then you can only leave the Restricted Area for the following reasons (but should not travel any further than necessary):

- Necessary goods or services, if you are unable to obtain these goods or services in the Restricted Area
- Care or other compassionate reasons
- Work or education

You must not leave the Restricted Area to use any sport or physical recreational facilities, beauty and personal care facilities, hairdressers or go to restaurants.

If you live in Regional Victoria

If you live in Regional Victoria then you can only travel to a Restricted Area to shop for necessary goods or services, for care or compassionate reasons, and to work or study.

If you live in a Non-Restricted Area, you may travel through one of the Restricted Areas to travel to another part of the Non-Restricted Area, however you should try to plan your trip so that you don't need to stop.

Restricted Areas – Can I meet other people?

Yes, but you can meet up to nine other people (plus any infant under one year of age not counting towards this limit) outside for exercise or outdoor recreation. You must not travel more than 25km from where you live.

You can invite two persons living together (plus any dependents) to your home each day, or you and one person you live with (plus your dependents) can visit another person in their home. You are only allowed one visit per day; you cannot visit one person, and have another person over to your house.

If you live alone or are a single parent (all children under 18), you can nominate one person to visit you in your home. That nominated person cannot be a nominated visitor of any other person who lives alone (called a 'single social bubble').

Living outside a Restricted Area (in Regional Victoria)

If you live in a Non-Restricted Area, there are no restrictions on the reasons you can leave home or the distance you can travel across regional Victoria, however, there are limits on public gatherings, visitors to the home, education and childcare, work, recreation, travel and ceremonies. A number of restrictions still in place.

When you leave the house, you must wear a mask, practice social distancing and comply with all restrictions on gatherings.

You can leave the house for any reason, including to:

- Attend work
- Visit a restaurant with up to nine other people
- Visit retail stores, hairdressing, beauty and personal care
- Obtain educational services where students are undertaking VCE, VCAL or VETiS, enrolled in special schools, are vulnerable young persons
- Tertiary education can also occur where not reasonably practicable to occur remotely
- Provide care and support for health reasons or child-minding services
- Visit the home of one person per day. There can only be two visitors (plus those persons' children) visiting another person's home each day

- Exercise or meet outdoors for social interaction with up to 9 other people. Two or more groups of 10 cannot meet for a common purpose at a public place. You should use the parks and public spaces which are closest to your home. To stop the spread of COVID-19, you cannot travel to Metropolitan Melbourne to exercise
- Visit indoor and outdoor entertainment facilities e.g. cinemas, galleries, museums, arenas and zoos
- Attend an auction, private inspection of a premises or move home
- Play sport at outdoor facilities e.g. golf or tennis
- Visit holiday accommodation and camping sites, including participating in outdoor tourism e.g. hiking, horse-back riding and walking
- Play professional sports
- Go to an outdoor skate park
- Play outdoor sports (contact and non-contact sports for under 19s; non-contact sport for over 19s)
- Attend an outdoor religious gathering and ceremonies of up to 10 people indoors or 50 people outdoors plus one faith leader
- Travel across Non-Restricted Areas in Victoria
- Attend a funeral (no more than 20 guests if indoors or 50 guests if outdoors)
- Attend a wedding (limited to 10 guests, the couple, the celebrant and a photographer)

What about family in other houses, can we visit each other?

If you live in a Restricted Area

Yes, if you live alone or are a single parent (all children under 18), you can nominate one person to visit you in your home (called a 'single social bubble').

Yes, if you do not live alone or are not a single parent, you can invite two persons who live together (plus any dependents) to visit you at home per day. You can only have one visit per day.

If you do not live in a Restricted Area

Yes, you can invite up to 2 visitors (who do not have to live together) to your house each day (plus their children). You can only have one visit per day.

What if I don't feel safe in my home?

You can leave if there is family violence, or violence by another person in the home. You can leave even if you are in a Restricted Area.

If you are in a family violence refuge or other emergency accommodation and you don't have an alternative safe accommodation option, you can stay there.

When do I have to self-isolate or quarantine?

Self-isolation means that if you are confirmed to have COVID-19, you must stay at home (or at other accommodation) until you are told by a Public Health Officer that you can go back to your usual activities. If you live with other people, you should stay in a different room as much as possible, use a different bathroom, and wear a surgical mask when you see other people. You must not go out, except if you need medical attention.

Quarantine means staying in your home, hotel or health care setting for a minimum of 14 days, as a precaution in particular circumstances, in case you develop COVID-19. You must quarantine if you:

- have been in close contact with someone who is a confirmed case of COVID-19
- if you have COVID-19 symptoms: fever or a cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or respiratory illness
- if you have returned to Australia from overseas
- if you travel between some states (for example, if you travel over the border to South Australia- see further below)

If you have COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, you should contact a health professional.

What restrictions are there around using my car?

If you live in a Restricted Area

You can go for a drive but should stay within 25km of your home. When you do leave your car, you must wear a mask. You can have passengers in your car but, where possible, this should be avoided, unless they live in your household.

If you do not live in a Restricted Area

You can go for a drive but should comply with the Stay Safe Directions. When you do leave your car, you must wear a mask. You can have passengers in your car but, where possible, this should be avoided, unless they live in your household.

Can I care for Elders?

You can care for an Elder in need. However, older people are the most vulnerable to COVID-19 and you should think of ways you can care for them without close contact. For example, you could leave food on their doorstep, or clean or do other chores while they

sit away in another room. You should stay at least 1.5 metres away at all times.

If you are well and have not been in known contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days, you can visit an aged-care facility to give care and support to a resident. You should keep 1.5 metres away from the residents and workers.

If you live in a Restricted Area, only one person can visit at a time and the visit cannot be longer than 2 hours except to support end-of-life care.

If you live in a Non-Restricted Area, only one household can visit at a time and the visit cannot be longer than 2 hours except to support end-of-life care.

Each resident can have no more than one visit a day. You will also need an up-to-date influenza vaccination.

You should call the aged-care facility ahead of visiting to check they don't have any other restrictions in place.

Can we still get together outside for community events?

If you live in a Restricted Area

You can attend a gathering of up to 10 people outdoors.

If you do not live in a Restricted Area

You can attend a gathering of up to 10 people outdoors.

What about Sorry Business and funerals?

If you live in a Restricted Area

You can attend Sorry Business and funerals but restrictions apply. If the ceremony is held in a Restricted Area, only 20 people can attend plus those required to conduct the funeral. If the funeral is held at home, only people who ordinarily live there plus 2 guests can attend, plus those required to conduct the funeral.

You can travel to a funeral outside a Restricted Area (see below).

If you do not live in a Restricted Area

You can attend Sorry Business and funerals. The restrictions on attending funerals are:

- 20 members if held in an indoor space
- 50 members if held in an outdoor space

plus those required to conduct the funeral. You will still need to follow social distancing protocols.

What if I can't pay my rent?

If you have lost your job, or you are making less money because of COVID-19, you should get in touch

with your landlord as soon as possible to discuss options.

If you fall behind in rent, until 28 March 2021, you can't be evicted if you can't pay rent because you are suffering hardship as a result of COVID-19. You can still be evicted for other things, like damaging your property or not paying rent because of other reasons. You may also be eligible for a rent relief grant if you are suffering hardship. If your application is successful, payments will be made directly to your agent or landlord to contribute towards your rent payments. Details on how to apply are set out in Part E of this factsheet.

Landlords are not allowed to increase rent at this time.

B. Police enforcement powers

What powers do the police have to enforce these directions?

If you don't comply with social distancing, self-isolation, wearing a mask when required, curfew restrictions or any other Government order, police may:

- issue an on-the-spot fine
- arrest you
- restrict your movements within Victoria
- prevent you from entering Victoria
- give any other direction reasonably necessary to protect public health

There will be greater police presence in Restricted Areas, including roadblocks.

Do police have to issue a fine?

No, the police have the discretion to choose how to respond. For example, police can decide to give you a warning and not issue a fine.

Can police arrest me if I do not follow a public health direction?

Yes, under certain circumstances. If police believe on reasonable grounds that someone constitutes a serious risk to public health, they can arrest that person for as long as reasonably necessary to eliminate or reduce that risk. An arrest should always be a last resort.

What do I have to do if approached by police?

If requested by a police officer, you need to provide your name, address, and any other information they require for the purpose of investigating, eliminating or reducing a risk to public health. This could include the reason why you are out of the house. Refusing to give

this information without a reasonable excuse could result in a fine.

Before asking you to do something, Police will give you a warning that it is against the law not to follow their instructions, unless it is not practicable to do so.

You can film your interaction with police in a public place if you are concerned about your rights.

What are the possible penalties?

Victoria Police have the power to issue the following on-the-spot fines:

- \$1,652 for persons and \$9,913 for businesses who do not comply with any Government directions
- \$200 for persons who are not wearing a face covering and do not have a lawful reason for doing so
- \$4,956.6 for persons who do not self-isolate or self-quarantine when they are required to do so

Instead of issuing an on-the-spot fine, police may decide to either arrest a person and/or issue a court notice requiring them to attend court. An arrest should only be a last resort, especially if the offence is less serious. The court may impose a fine of up to \$19,826.40 for individuals and \$99,132 for businesses.

If you attempt to leave a Restricted Area (e.g. leave Metropolitan Melbourne and travel to Regional Victoria) without a valid reason, you may receive a \$5000 fine.

Fines can be issued to a person aged 10 years or over.

Appeals, waiver, reduction

You can request a review of your penalty notice by contacting Fines Victoria and/or have the matter heard in the Magistrates' Court (or the Children's Court, if you are under 18 years of age).

You may have a defence if there was a reasonable reason for you being unable to follow the Government order. You may also be able to seek a reduction or waiver on grounds of financial disadvantage or arrange to pay by instalments.

You should get legal advice before taking the matter to court, as the court may order you to pay further costs.

C. Restrictions on movement into Aboriginal communities and interstate

Can I travel to another State?

There are new restrictions on movement between Victoria and other states and territories. These may mean that borders are closed to Victorians, that a permit is required to enter that visitors are required to quarantine. You should check the rules in the state or territory before you travel.

If you live in the NSW-Victorian border region (50km either side of the border), you may be eligible for a [border region resident permit](#) to enter NSW. If you have a border region resident permit, you can cross the border to get necessary goods or services, for care or other compassionate reasons, to attend work or education (if not possible to do so from home) or permanently relocate to NSW.

What if I travel to another State for work?

If you live at or near the South Australian border, and cannot work from home, you may be deemed an 'essential traveller'. As an essential traveller, you can move freely between Victoria and South Australia for work. Permit restrictions may apply. If you are not an essential traveller, you should not travel.

If you live in the NSW-Victorian border region (50km either side of the border), you may be eligible for a [border region resident permit](#) to enter NSW. If you have a border region resident permit, you can cross the border to attend work (if not possible to do so from home).

Can I travel to remote communities in Victoria or another State?

If you live in a Restricted Area

No, you must not travel outside of the Restricted Area unless you are required to do so to access goods or services, care or other compassionate reasons, work or education.

You must not travel further than 25km from your home.

If you do not live in a Restricted Area

You can travel across the Non-Restricted Area but cannot enter the Restricted Area other than to buy necessary goods and services, for care and compassionate reasons or for permitted work.

D. Businesses

Businesses which are allowed to trade must follow physical distancing requirements by allowing entry to no more than one person for every four-square-metres of available floor space in their shop. For example, if a shop has a total floorspace of 20 square metres, then

no more than 5 people (including staff) can be in that premises at the same time.

It is an offence for a business to not follow a direction.

Restricted Areas – What if my business is in a Restricted Area?

From 11:59pm on 27 October 2020, businesses in metropolitan Melbourne can open if it is not practicable for employees to work from home. The permitted industries list no longer applies.

Businesses operating in Victoria must have a COVIDSafe Plan to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading within the workplace.

Metro-Regional Work Travel Permit

Workers only require permits if they are travelling between Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria for work.

If you live in the Restricted Area and are required to attend work in the Non-Restricted Area (or vice versa), your employer must issue you with a metro-regional work travel permit. It is your employer's responsibility to issue a worker permit. You must carry your worker permit with you to and from your workplace.

Can businesses reopen in Restricted Areas?

Certain businesses that are allowed to operate must limit the number of members of the public in their facility at any time. The number of people permitted in each facility is based on a "density quotient". The "density" quotient is unique, calculated by dividing the total accessible space in the facility (in square metres):

- by 2 for food and drink facilities; and
- by 4 in any other shared space.

For example, an outdoor food and drink facility with a total area of 38 square metres has a density quotient of 19, so no more than 19 members of the public can be in the space at once.

Businesses subject to trading restrictions include:

- Pubs, bars, nightclubs, food courts and taverns
- Accommodation
- Indoor sports centres, including gyms and indoor basketball courts

Businesses in Metropolitan Melbourne which may be open include:

- Essential services, such as supermarkets and liquor shops, bakeries, butchers, banks, petrol stations, pharmacies, post offices, public transport, taxis and hardware stores (for tradespeople only)

- Restaurants and cafes can open for outdoor dining to the lesser of the density quotient or 50 seated customers and a ‘two square metre’ density limit. Groups cannot be greater than 10 people. Indoor dining can occur to the lesser of the density quotient for that facility or 10 seated customers (provided that the total number of members does not exceed 20 persons indoors) and subject to the ‘four square metre’ rule. Food courts continue to be closed
- Retail shops can open subject to compliance with density quotients for each indoor space
- Hairdressing services, beauty and personal care are open (but only where a mask can be worn for the duration of the service and comply with the density quotient for each indoor space)
- Real Estate Services including for private inspections with up to 10 people from a maximum of 2 households; private sales and auctions conducted in an outdoor space with no more than 10 members of the public
- Physical recreation facilities will reopen in some cases:
 - Indoor sports centres including gyms and training facilities will stay closed. Fitness and dance classes must be broadcast electronically.
 - Outdoor sporting facilities will be open and outdoor personal training can only occur with 10 participants plus the instructor except where a distance of at least 100 metres between groups can be maintained at all times (e.g. a golf course).
 - Community outdoor sports (contact and non-contact sports for under 19s; non-contact sport only for over 19s)
 - Outdoor swimming pools will be open up to the lesser of 50 people or the density quotient permitted in the water and non-water parts of the facility, and subject to a ‘four square metre’ rule
- Educational facilities can operate for VCE, VCAL and VETiS students, vulnerable young persons and persons enrolled at special schools. Tertiary education can occur if not reasonably practicable to occur remotely. Childcare services can also operate
- Outdoor non-seated venues can operate, including theatres, cinemas, music halls, galleries and museums (except for entertainment and sporting events) provided that the number of guests does not exceed the “density quotient” for that venue, there is a COVIDSafe Plan and there is no access to indoor spaces
- Drive-in cinemas can operate provided it is entirely outdoor and accessed by vehicles
- Seated outdoor spaces can operate, including theatres, cinemas, music halls, galleries, museums, arenas and convention centres (except for entertainment and sporting events) provided that the number of members is the lower of 50 or 25% of the maximum fixed seated capacity, there is no access to indoor spaces and patrons are seated at least 1.5 metres away from others
- Indoor entertainment facilities including theatres, cinemas, music halls, galleries, museums, arenas and convention centres (except for entertainment and sporting events) provided that the number of guests does not exceed the “density quotient” for that venue and has a COVIDSafe Plan
- Animal facilities such as zoos and aquariums can operate non-seated outdoor spaces subject to the density quotient permitted at the facility, provided there is no access to any indoor space and with a COVIDSafe Plan. Seated outdoor spaces can operate to the lower of 50 persons or 25% of the maximum capacity. Visitors to indoor spaces must be limited based on the density quotient for that space
- Places of worship will be open for private worship for households or social bubbles, plus a faith leader. Religious gatherings can also occur outdoors for up to 50 people or indoors with up to 20 people. Weddings can occur with a maximum of 10 guests and funerals with a maximum of 10 guests indoors or 20 guests outdoors
- Outdoor personal training (for no more than nine persons plus the instructor), outdoor swimming pools for exercise (provided there is no access to indoor facilities) and outdoor playgrounds
- Large scale construction with 25% of employees onsite and small scale construction with a maximum of five workers
- Landscaping and gardening sole operators
- Health services provided in hospitals (including elective surgeries), dentists, physios, speech pathologists and aged care services, as well as services that relate to the COVID-19 health response
- Law enforcement, emergency services and correctional facilities

- All manufacturing and wholesale trade, certain, distribution and transport services, public administration services

Regional Victoria - What if my business is located in Regional Victoria?

Since 11:59pm Wednesday 16 September, certain businesses have been subject to trading restrictions.

Certain businesses that are allowed to operate must limit the number of members of the public in their facility at any time. The number of people permitted in each facility is based on a “density quotient”. The “density” quotient is unique, calculated by dividing the total accessible space in the facility (in square metres):

- by 2 for food and drink facilities; and
- by 4 in any other shared space.

For example, an outdoor food and drink facility with a total area of 38 square metres has a density quotient of 19, so no more than 19 members of the public can be in the space at once.

Businesses subject to trading restrictions include:

- Restaurants and cafes can open for outdoor dining to the lesser of the density quotient or 50 seated customers and a ‘two square metre’ density limit. Groups cannot be greater than 10 people. Indoor dining can occur to the lesser of the density quotient for that facility or 10 seated customers (provided that the total number of members does not exceed 20 persons indoors) and subject to the ‘four square metre’ rule. Food courts continue to be closed
- Retail shops can open subject to compliance with density quotients for each indoor space
- Hairdressing services, beauty and personal care are open (but only where a mask can be worn for the duration of the service and comply with the density quotient for each indoor space)
- Libraries can operate activities in an outdoor area for up to 10 people and community facilities can provide essential public support services like food banks (these can occur indoors provided the number of members does not exceed 20 persons or the density quotient for the area)
- Real estate auctions can occur with up to 10 persons and private inspections can be arranged
- Physical recreation facilities will reopen in some cases:
 - Indoor sports centres including gyms and training facilities will stay closed. Fitness

and dance classes must be broadcast electronically.

- Outdoor sporting facilities will be open and outdoor personal training can only occur with 10 participants plus the instructor except where a distance of at least 100 metres between groups can be maintained at all times (e.g. a golf course).
- Community outdoor sports (contact and non-contact sports for under 19s; non-contact sport only for over 19s)
- Outdoor swimming pools will be open up to the lesser of 50 people or the density quotient permitted in the water and non-water parts of the facility, and subject to a ‘four square metre’ rule
- Indoor swimming pools will be open to the lesser of 20 people or the density quotient permitted in the non-water parts of the facility, and subject to a ‘four square metre’ rule.

- Indoor sporting facilities can operate, including gymnasiums and indoor basketball courts, provided that the number of members permitted in the facility at any time is the lower of 20 people or the number calculated by dividing the aggregate publicly accessible area of the indoor space by 8.
- Educational facilities can operate for VCE, VCAL and VETiS students, vulnerable young persons and persons enrolled at special schools. Tertiary education can occur if not reasonably practicable to occur remotely. Childcare services can also operate
- Outdoor non-seated venues can operate, including theatres, cinemas, music halls, galleries and museums (except for entertainment and sporting events) provided that the number of guests does not exceed the “density quotient” for that venue, there is a COVIDSafe Plan and there is no access to indoor spaces
- Drive-in cinemas can operate provided it is entirely outdoor and accessed by vehicles
- Seated outdoor spaces can operate, including theatres, cinemas, music halls, galleries, museums, arenas and convention centres (except for entertainment and sporting events) provided that the number of members is the lower of 50 or 25% of the maximum fixed seated capacity, there is no access to indoor spaces and patrons are seated at least 1.5 metres away from others

- Indoor entertainment facilities including theatres, cinemas, music halls, galleries, museums, arenas and convention centres (except for entertainment and sporting events) provided that the number of guests does not exceed the “density quotient” for that venue and here is a COVIDSafe Plan
- Animal facilities such as zoos and aquariums can operate non-seated outdoor spaces subject to the density quotient permitted at the facility, provided there is no access to any indoor space and with a COVIDSafe Plan. Seated outdoor spaces can operate to the lower of 50 persons or 25% of the maximum capacity. Visitors to indoor spaces must be limited based on the density quotient for that space
- Holiday accommodation and camping can operate but only for those living in regional Victoria
- Tourism operations can occur if provided solely outdoors e.g. hiking and walking and the number of members on a tour does not persons who reside together, or persons who are in an intimate relationship, and two other persons.
- Places of worship will be open for private worship for households or social bubbles, plus a faith leader. Religious gatherings can also occur outdoors for up to 50 people or indoors with up to 20 people. Weddings can occur with a maximum of 10 guests and funerals with a maximum of 20 guests indoors or 50 guests outdoors

All businesses, including essential businesses, must follow social distancing requirements, cleaning requirements and ensure employees wear face coverings at all times.

E. Who to call for help or information

General information and helplines

If you are looking for further information on COVID-19, you can contact:

- National Coronavirus Helpline: 1800 020 080
- Victoria State Government, Health and Human Services – Corona virus hotline: 1800 675 398

Apply for a rent relief grant

Before you can apply for a grant, you must reach an agreement for a rent reduction with your landlord and lodge this agreement with Consumer Affairs Victoria, or complete a mediation process with Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Once you have done this, you can apply for a Rent Relief Grant online:

<https://rentrelief.covid19.dhhs.vic.gov.au/>.

If you need to talk to someone about fines?

- Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) on 1800 064 865 or www.vals.org.au
- Victoria Legal Aid on 1300 92 387 or www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

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This guidance sheet is not a substitute for legal advice. You should contact a lawyer for specific legal advice or referral.