

[Home](#) / [Coronavirus](#) / [Latest news](#) /

Coronavirus (COVID-19) daily update

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This Chief Health Officer update is intended to provide clinicians and the Victorian public with information about the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria as well as relevant public health response activities in Victoria. Chief Health Officer Alerts will continue to be issued when there are changes to the public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19).

04/08/2020

What's new?

- As of 4 August 2020, the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Victoria is 12,335 with 398 new cases diagnosed since yesterday.
- The overall total has increased by 439 with 41 cases being reclassified.
- Of the new cases, 63 are linked to outbreaks or complex cases and 376 are under investigation.
- There are 2,159 cases that may indicate community transmission, an increase of 128 since yesterday's report.
- 456 people are in hospital, including 38 patients in intensive care.
- Sadly, there have been 11 new deaths reported since yesterday. To date, 147 people have died from coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria.
- There are 6,706 cases currently active in Victoria. 5,283 people have recovered.
- Further details can be found in today's [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) media release](#).
- Up-to-date [epidemiological data is available on our website](#).
- The Department of Health and Human Services will continue distributing masks to eligible Victorians. General practices can place orders for these masks. More information is available

on [the reusable face masks page](#).

State of Disaster

- Victoria entered a State of Disaster from 6pm on Sunday 2 August until Sunday 13 September. This will give police additional powers to make sure people are complying with public health directions.
- Melbourne moved to stage 4 restrictions from 6pm on 2 August 2020.
- A curfew is being implemented across Melbourne from 8pm to 5am. The only reason to leave home during these times will be work, medical care and caregiving.
- From Tuesday 4 August 2020, a new infringement offence for a breach of the Chief Health Officer directions will be introduced to target people who are failing to self-isolate after testing positive to coronavirus (COVID-19) or being identified as a close contact.
- New duration, distance and gathering limits will apply to shopping and exercise. Exercise will be limited to one hour a day within a five-kilometre radius of your home. Group size will be limited to two, regardless of if you are in the same household or not.
- Shopping for essentials will be limited to one person per household per day. A five-kilometre limit will apply.
- Regional Victoria will move to stage 3 restrictions from 11.59pm on Wednesday 5 August 2020. There will only be four reasons to leave home; for food and supplies, medical care and caregiving, exercise and work or study, if you can't work or study from home.
- Mitchell Shire will remain at stage 3 restrictions.
- All Victorian students will move to remote learning from Wednesday 5 August 2020.
- From 11:59pm on Sunday 2 August 2020 all Victorians must wear a face covering when leaving home. More information on face masks and coverings is available on our [website](#).

Current advice to clinicians

- Practitioners should test any patients who meet the clinical criteria below

Fever OR chills in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that explains the clinical presentation*

OR

Acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, anosmia or loss of smell or loss of taste)

Note: In addition, testing is recommended for people with new onset of other clinical symptoms consistent with coronavirus (COVID-19)** AND who are close contacts of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19); who have returned from overseas in the past 14 days; or who are healthcare or aged care workers.

**Clinical discretion applies including consideration of the potential for co-infection (e.g. concurrent infection with SARS-CoV-2 and influenza)G*

***headache, myalgia, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea*

- If referring your patients for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, a list of testing locations can be found on the [getting tested for coronavirus page](#).
- Due to an increased risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) health care workers in Victoria (including in regional and rural areas) must wear a level 1 or type 1 disposable surgical mask in public-facing areas in healthcare settings, particularly where adequate physical distancing is not possible. For more guidance on this update see the [health services and professionals](#) page. This requirement includes pharmacists, nurses, doctors and other Victorian health care workers.
- Any coronavirus (COVID-19) test reported by a laboratory as having detected SARS-CoV-2 on PCR will be treated as positive for the purposes of public health actions, regardless of repeat testing of the sample. It is not appropriate to advise a patient that a test is a false positive.
- If you're the doctor of a confirmed case, check in regularly on your patient – if your patient's clinical condition deteriorates, consider tertiary referral as your next step.
- Confirmed cases will be contacted by the public health team and if a person cannot be contacted after two calls within a two-hour window, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) will accompany an authorised officer to visit the person's address.

Key messages for the community

- Stay home and get tested if you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) no matter how mild: including fever, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of sense of smell or taste. Go home straight after your test and self-isolate while you wait for the results. You must not go to a workplace until you get your results. [Go to the DHHS testing map for locations](#).
- From 11:59pm on Sunday 2 August all Victorians will be required to wear a face covering when leaving their home, unless a lawful exception applies.
- From 6pm on Sunday 2 August, a daily curfew from 8pm to 5am will be in force across metropolitan Melbourne, including restrictions to gathering, exercise and shopping. For more information on this announcement see the [Premier's statement](#).
- People who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or are close contacts will no longer be able to leave their homes for exercise. A limited number of reasons to leave the home will remain – including seeking medical care, in an emergency, or if required by law. However, if you fail to prove you were out for a permitted reason, you could be fined up to \$4,957.
- This is a difficult and uncertain time for many Victorians, and support is vital and available. For more information about managing stress and support options, call the Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Services on 1800 512 348.
- For more information about the worker support payment, see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Test Isolation and Worker Support Payments](#).
- **Pause on public and private elective surgeries:** In metropolitan Melbourne surgeries that have already been scheduled may proceed, while only new Category 1 and the most urgent Category 2 surgeries can be booked. IVF treatments such as egg retrievals will be able to continue given the time critical nature of these procedures and minimal impact on hospital capacity. This is due to the increase in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and to ensure our hospitals have the beds, equipment and staff available if aged care residents need to be transferred.

- [Check our website](#) for information and advice about current restriction levels in place including where stage 4, stage 3 and stage 2 restricted areas are, as well as the updated directions.

More information

Clinical information

[Latest coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information for Victorian health services and general practice](#)

Consumer information

[Financial support – for coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Translated resources in over 50 languages](#)

[Victoria's current restrictions](#)

[Latest coronavirus information from the World Health Organization](#)

[Latest travel advice from Smartraveller](#)

Contacts

Medical practitioners needing clinical information or to notify confirmed cases can contact the Department of Health and Human Services Communicable Diseases Section on 1300 651 160 (24 hours).

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Contact

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The department acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and acknowledges and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

The department is committed to safe and inclusive work places, policies and services for people of LGBTIQ communities and their families.



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