

COVID UPDATES | Victoria – As of 2:00pm, 16/08/2021

METRO MELBOURNE

Following the Premier's announcement today regarding revised public health directions for metro Melbourne effective as of 16 August 2021 11.59 pm (<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/extended-melbourne-lockdown-keep-victorians-safe-0>), please note the below highlighted **changes to requirements for authorised allied health workforces**;

- Allied health services provided by allied health professionals working as authorised workers in hospitals, in residential care facilities providing critical clinical care or as directed by the hospital; or
- Allied health professionals working in private or public community services, whether clinic-based or home-based, providing **urgent clinical care**.

NOTE: Face to face appointments should only occur for urgent clinical care that cannot be deferred - routine face to face care is not permitted but may be provided via Telehealth; or

- Allied health services provided by allied health professionals working in private practice providing care through telehealth and other virtual care options;
- Medical/nursing/midwifery/allied health students on placement providing authorised care in hospitals or in residential care facilities, or through telehealth.

The definition of urgent clinical care for this purpose is:

Direct clinical care (and other clinical support activity necessary to support direct clinical care) that prevents a significant change/deterioration in functional independence necessitating escalation of care OR is required as an adjunct to other urgent medical/surgical interventions

For example, urgent clinical care;

- *that avoids a potential hospital admission or emergency department presentation*
- *that prevents/delays the need for further specialist medical or surgical intervention*
- *that prevents an increase in care needs that would necessitate additional carer supports or change in accommodation needs*
- *that limits secondary complications post surgery*
- *where deferral would lead to long term adverse consequences (ie. delays to child development)*

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS (METRO & REGIONAL)

	Metro Melbourne	Regional Victoria
Restrictions on Movement from Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 reasons for individuals to leave their home remain in place 	Unrestricted movement from home
Allied Health Intervention –private practice settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual face to face services for essential care - only if care/service is not able to be provided via telehealth Group face to face interventions not permitted No restrictions on care/service types provided via telehealth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual face to face services for routine and essential care permitted Delivery via Telehealth should be preferred wherever clinically appropriate
Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group face to face interventions not permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group face to face interventions permitted Group size determined by venue size and compliance with density quotient – 1 to 4m2
Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wherever practical, individuals should work at a single practice/clinic Movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria only as required for authorised work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria only as required for authorised work
Face Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be carried at all times Must be worn indoors except if at home, or if an exemption applies Must be worn outdoors 	
Density Quotient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to all venues and spaces that are accessible to the public (and in closed workplaces, to shared spaces such as lunchrooms) – 1 to 4m2 	
QR Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All businesses and workplaces must ensure all workers and visitors check in using the free Victorian Government QR Code Service; https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/about-victorian-government-qr-code-service Exemptions to the use of QR codes cited for support groups and health services related to confidentiality are very much focused on significant risk issues (eg. family violence services), and will not apply to the majority of Allied Health services 	

Please note, **clinicians based in metro Melbourne and travelling to/from regional Victoria for the purposes of authorised work** are still bound by the restriction levels of metro Melbourne and therefore cannot access services/facilities that are not currently available in Melbourne (for example, eating in a restaurant/café).

Conversely, **clinicians based in regional Victoria and travelling to/from metro Melbourne for the purposes of authorised work** are bound by the restrictions in place for metro Melbourne when at work/in Melbourne.

QUICK LINKS

Extended Melbourne Lockdown to Keep Victorians Safe | Premier of Victoria

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/210816%20-%20Extended%20Melbourne%20Lockdown%20To%20Keep%20Victorians%20Safe.pdf>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-work-current-restrictions#allied-health-faqs>

NOTE: The above guidance is based on information provided by the Victorian Government as of 2:00pm August 16 2021, which Chiropractic Australia understands to be correct as of this time, however this may be subject to change over the coming days and we will update our guidance accordingly should this be the case. If you require specific clarification and further details regarding the current restrictions, please visit Statement From The Premier | Premier of Victoria.

Chiropractic Australia continues to liaise with government departments in relation to the impacts of COVID-19 on practitioners and practices, and we will share any further information with our valued members as soon as it comes to light.