

焦點新聞 24/12/2021

**\*\*COVID-19 訊息重點更新\*\***

## 強制口罩令再實施

維州政府宣佈再次由今天(24/12/2021)起，再次實施強制口罩令。除家居以外，八歲以上居民進入其他室內地均必須配戴貼面口罩。

## 疫苗加強劑接種間距縮短

澳洲疫苗諮詢小組建議由明年 1 月 4 日開始，可在接種首支疫苗後 4 個月開始，接種加強劑。

## 聖誕報佳音及聚會的溫馨提醒

衛生當局正密切關注墨爾本聖保祿教堂(St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne)出現的 7 單感染個案事件，該事件聯系有關教堂的合唱團及樂團表現綵排時出現。

事件亦帶起了在室內空間詠唱時所產生的懸浮粒子會增加了感染的風險，建議選擇在通風良好環進行這些綵排活動，或將活動時間縮短、戴上口罩及保持社交距離，也能有效減低感染風險。

其他詳情可瀏覽以下網頁

資訊來源：

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/covid-19-chief-health-officer-update>

# COVID-19 Chief Health Officer Update

**Date issued:** 24 December 2021

**Issued by:** Adjunct Clinical Professor Brett Sutton, Chief Health Officer

**Issued to:** Clinicians and the Victorian public

## Purpose

This Chief Health Officer update is intended to provide clinicians and the Victorian public with information about the number of confirmed cases of 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 COVID-19.

## What's new

Victoria was notified of 2,095 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday. All cases were locally acquired except for five cases which were acquired overseas.

There are 15,471 active cases in Victoria. The total number of confirmed cases in Victoria since the beginning of the pandemic is 153,631.

Sadly, the Department was notified yesterday of eight deaths of people aged in their 40s, 50s, 70s, 80s and 90s.

The 10 Local Government areas with the highest number of new cases are Hume, Brimbank, Wyndham, Moreland, Melbourne, Melton, Whittlesea, Darebin, Stonnington and Yarra.

## Updates

### Next dose interval

We note ATAGI's statement recommending a reduced minimum interval of four months between the primary course and the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, proposed from 4 January. This is an important and necessary change to keep more Victorians safe over summer.

The date aligns with the [major expansion of our booster program](#) announced yesterday – and from 4 January, the hard-working professionals at our 50+ state-run vaccination centres look forward to welcoming Victorians who got their second dose in September or earlier.

### Sensible mask rules

Masks are now required to be worn indoors, except for in the home, for people aged eight years and over – exceptions apply. We also strongly

recommend that people opt for seated service instead of crowded, standing-only hospitality venues. See Victoria's [COVIDSafe Settings](#) for more information.

#### Carols and Christmas mass reminder

The Department of Health is working with St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne following the emergence of seven cases linked to rehearsals and performances of the choir and orchestra for Carols in the Cathedral.

It's a useful reminder that the increased projection of aerosol particles while singing inside is associated with an increased spread of COVID-19.

We recommend singing outside or in a well-ventilated room (with windows/doors open), with shorter performances, mask wearing and physical distancing in use where possible.

It is important that anyone attending group singing over Christmas monitor for symptoms and don't attend if any develop. People at high-risk of severe illness should reconsider participation in group singing right now.

#### Vaccines

Yesterday, 13,382 vaccine doses were administered by Victoria's state-commissioned services. The total number of doses administered through state-run services is 5,021,874.

94.4 per cent of Victorians aged 12 and over have now had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 92.7 per cent have had two doses. This excludes the most recent Commonwealth data.

Victorians are encouraged to book their COVID-19 vaccination through their local GP or community pharmacy, community health service or state vaccination centre. To find a GP or pharmacy provider and make a booking, visit the [Australian Government Department of Health website](#).

#### Testing

81,565 COVID-19 tests were processed yesterday. The total number of tests performed in Victoria since the pandemic began is 16,853,991.

#### Advice for cases and contacts

Helpful information is available online for cases and household, social, workplace, education and other contacts.

See the [checklists](#) and recommend them to your patients.

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## General advice

COVID-19 symptoms include fever, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath and loss or change in sense of smell or taste. If you are experiencing symptoms, wear a fitted face mask when you get tested.

The Department publishes expected wait times at testing sites as well as updated information about locations and hours of operation at [Where to get tested](#).

For more information call the 24-hour Coronavirus Hotline at [1800 675 398](tel:1800675398) or visit [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Victoria](#).

## Current advice to clinicians

Notifications to the department of a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 can be done online. You can [submit an online form](#) to our public health team, rather than calling us, saving you time and resolving your case load more efficiently.

## COVID-19 testing criteria

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, or loss or changes in sense of smell or taste)
- **Note:** testing is also recommended for people with new onset of other clinical symptoms consistent with COVID-19\*\* AND who are from the following cohorts: close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19; those who have returned from overseas in the past 14 days; or those who are healthcare or aged care workers. Testing is recommended for those cohorts with onset of other clinical symptoms\*\*. Asymptomatic testing is not recommended at this stage except for targeted programs.
- \*Clinical discretion applies including consideration of the potential for co-infection (e.g. concurrent infection with SARS-CoV-2 and influenza)
- \*\*headache, myalgia, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea.

If a symptomatic patient that presents for testing, confirms exposure to a known COVID-19 case within the past 14 days, and the outbreak definition is met, the test sample is to be treated as an 'outbreak sample'.

**Read the full update:** [COVID-19 CHO update](#) for more information.

**Sources from :**

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/covid-19-chief-health-officer-update>