Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

22 December 2020

NSW coronavirus (COVID-19) situation

New South Wales (NSW) now has 95 confirmed active cases associated with the Northern Beaches outbreak. There are 8 new cases (locally acquired) in the 24 hours leading up to 8pm 21 December.

Victoria's response to the Northern Beaches outbreak and designation of zones

On Sunday 20 December, the Victorian Premier announced additional measures to protect Victorians. https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/further-measures-protect-victoria

Under the New South Wales Border Crossing Permit Scheme Directions (No 2) and in response to the Northern Beaches outbreak, Victoria has introduced a permit system for travelling from NSW to Victoria, similar to what occurred with South Australia (i.e. green, orange, red and hot zones based on place of origin). These four zones are categorised green, orange, red and hot zones:

- **Hot zone –** assessed as very high risk for coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in NSW.
- **Red zone –** assessed as high risk for coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in NSW.
- **Orange zone –** assessed as a medium risk for coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in NSW
- **Green zone –** means any part of the NSW other than the hot zone, red zone or orange zone.

Anyone who has recently come from NSW can access the exposure sites on the NSW COVID-19 https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

website Find information about Travel restrictions – NSW - https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/travel-restrictions-new-south-wales-your-questions-answered

Freight travel from Greater Sydney and Central Coast

You can apply for a Green Zone permit if you are a truck or freight driver, or air freight worker travelling to Victoria for work even if you have travelled through a Hot or Red Zone.

Truck or freight drivers, or air freight workers travelling to Victoria for work must declare they:

- are travelling to Victoria for work
- will wear a face mask in all public places and minimise contact with other people
- get regularly tested for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- self-quarantine when not providing freight services
- will only leave your accommodation
    - to get takeaway food or drink
    - access the bathroom
    - get medical care
    - get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19)
    - in an emergency situation, and
    - If required to do so by law.

The application for a Victorian Border Entry Permit for travel from NSW is available at the Services Victoria - https://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/border-permit/home

General requirements for travel into Victoria from NSW

Consistent with the Freight Movement Code for the Domestic Border Controls freight workers will be required to adhere to testing, self-quarantine and COVIDSafe Principles for all businesses.
https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle_regulation/files/freight-movement-code-for-the-domestic-border-controls.pdf

The permit is valid for multiple entries into Victoria, for fourteen days from the date of entry into Victoria.

You should display the permit on your dashboard.

If you cannot print out the permit, you can save the permit on your mobile phone or another smart device and show this if stopped by an officer.

Victoria Police has established checkpoints along the major road routes into Victoria from New South Wales to check those coming into Victoria are carrying the appropriate permit.

Border communities will be exempt from obtaining and carrying a permit to support them in going about their daily lives. Instead, they will be able to use their driver licence, or other forms of ID with their address.

Everybody should expect significant delays, allow extra time and make sure you have your permit in place. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Surveillance testing industry list and requirements – Ports of Entry – Maritime

The Victorian Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions impose some extra obligations on a number of industries, including Ports of Entry and apply to the Port of Melbourne, Geelong Port, Port of Hastings and Port of Portland, and include a requirement for surveillance COVID-19 testing:

- Crew of vessels entering Australian waters, including via another Australian port. Crews of vessels are required to comply with a testing frequency of 100% of crew tested prior to or on disembarking the vessel at a port of entry.

- Maritime port workers (Australia based) who have direct, occasional or indirect contact or interactions with passengers or crew on vessels from outside Australia and/or the environment which these passengers or crew pass through or workers who may handle potentially contaminated materials.

Maritime port workers are required to comply with a testing frequency of 100% of workforce tested once per week. Examples of Maritime port workers (Australia based) include:

- Any worker who interacts with maritime crew at the port of entry.

- Any worker or person who boards a vessel

- Any person who occupies the same enclosed space with maritime crew

- Any worker involved in transfer or transport of maritime crew

- Regulatory and welfare workers

- Cleaning and waste removal workers, and

- Hospitality and retail workers within a port (if any).

For more information see the surveillance testing list on the DHHS webpage
https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/surveillance-testing-industry-list-covid-19

Where can I get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria?

Heavy vehicle drivers can be tested at around 200 testing sites across Victoria. To find your nearest testing location visit 'Where to get tested' webpage https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested

Heavy vehicle drivers can also access an asymptomatic COVID-19 test at no cost by attending a private pathology clinic across Australia, with this test included in the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

NSW Freight testing facilities will be in place until the end of January 2021, see the Transport for NSW freight hub for COVID-19 updates.

https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/freight-hub

Heavy vehicle drivers can also access an asymptomatic COVID-19 test at no cost by attending a private pathology clinic across Australia, with this test included in the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

Return of local truck curfews

In March 2020, the Victorian Government lifted truck curfew restrictions across the state to allow supermarket and pharmaceutical stores to receive their goods as quickly as possible.

We will be re-establishing truck curfews for the delivery of supermarket and pharmaceutical goods beyond 31 December 2020.

The temporary removal of truck curfews was designed to make it easier for consumers to receive the essential household goods they need and to support supply chains during the coronavirus restrictions and up until the busy Christmas and New Year period is over.

In addition, the announcement reintroduces time limits on delivery vehicles parked in loading zones while they are stopped to drop-off or pick-up goods. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is continuing to monitor and enforce compliance in curfew areas.

Truck curfews determine when trucks can use certain roads and aim to strike a balance between the local community and truck operators.

Further COVID information

The coronavirus.vic.gov.au website is your home for coronavirus (COVID-19) information. Visit https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

For information about all state or territory border restrictions specific to the heavy vehicle industry please visit the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Coronavirus (COVID-19) response website https://www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/coronavirus-response

Freight Victoria in the Department of Transport is the central point of contact for Victorian Government industry information. Further enquiries should be directed to freightvictoria@transport.vic.gov.au

This update will be sent to you monthly or as required.