

Venue Closure Advice – Victorian Restrictions

VAPAC Venue Guidelines Suspended – August 6

As of August 6, ALL entertainment, arts, cultural and recreation venues and services in all regions of Victoria are closed for operations.

These restrictions are in force until at least **Sunday September 13**, or as otherwise advised by authorities.

Some on-site work is allowed in Stage 3 Regional Victoria.

Please see below for clarification of all restrictions.

VAPAC GUIDELINES SUSPENDED

We have ceased updating the *VAPAC Safe Re-Opening Venues Guidelines* until there is clarity on when restrictions might ease, and what level they will be.

We will then review those guidelines and republish a revised Version 3.

REGULATIONS – Restricted Activity Directions

- As of 9 July 2020, different levels of restriction apply to different Local Government Areas in Victoria.
- Restrictions Map
 - <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>

From 2 August 6pm all **Melbourne Metropolitan LGA Areas** are in [Stage 4 Restrictions](#) for a period of 6 weeks.

Entertainment and Cultural Venues including Concert Venues, Theatres & Auditoriums in those Stage 4 Restricted LGA areas must remain closed during this period.

ALL Arts & Recreation Services are CLOSED for On-Site Work.

No personnel on-site, no admin on site.

From 6 August 2020 all **Regional LGA Areas** are in [Stage 3 'Stay at Home' Restrictions](#) for a period of 6 weeks.

Entertainment and Cultural Venues including Concert Venues, Theatres & Auditoriums in Stage 3 Restricted LGA areas must close during this period.

A person who owns, controls or operates an entertainment facility in the Restricted Area must not operate that facility during the restricted activity period (R.A.D. No.5 (7))

Limited staff may be on-site for administrative purposes, with all social distancing, hygiene and mandated wearing of masks in place.

Masks: From 3 **August 2020** all people of 12 years age and older living or working within any part of Victoria [must wear a face covering \(mask\)](#) when leaving home unless an exemption applies.

This includes workplaces.

STAGE 4 CLARIFICATIONS

Until Sunday September 13, or as otherwise advised.

Stage 4 restrictions – Melbourne

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>

- No Arts & Recreation Services are permitted to have workers On Site at all in Melbourne (Stage 4)
- There are virtually no exceptional circumstances in which any worker should be working on-site in a venue in Melbourne
- The only possible exceptions might be for absolutely essential maintenance - security, building leaking, major IT issue for example - and essential Collection maintenance such as pest control. But only if this cannot take place from home and is essential. eg “critical repairs to any premises are allowed where required for emergency or safety”.
- A Permitted Worker Permit will be essential if anyone is to attend the workplace for this reason.

Worker Permits Stage 4 Areas

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/coronavirus-covid-19/permitted-worker-scheme>

COVID SAFE PLANS ALL REGIONS

- ALL permitted workplaces regardless of which region or restriction level they are in must have a COVID Safe Plan by midnight Friday August 7 IF they are operating and have 5 or more employees.
- IF you are running administrative services or a live streaming performance in a ‘non-operational’ Regional Venue and have 5 or more employees you **MUST** have a COVID Safe Plan.
- You may use the **VAPAC COVID Safe Plan Template Version 2:**
<https://vapac.org.au/covid-19-resources/>
- Or you may use the *Business Victoria provided Template and Guidelines* here:

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/covid-safe-business/covid-safe-plan>

Regardless of whether you are able to work on site now or not, you WILL need a COVID Safe Plan for your venue once we are able to re-open.

Live Streaming Exemptions - Stage 3 Venues ONLY

Despite having to close all entertainment and theatrical facilities within the restricted areas (ie. Victoria), the following exemption applies to performances for the purposes of broadcast in **Stage 3 Restricted Areas ONLY**:

7 (3) ...a person who owns, controls or operates an entertainment facility in the Restricted Area may operate that facility for the purpose of allowing a performance to occur at the premises, if that performance is to be broadcast (live or otherwise) via electronic means.

7 (4) If a performance is held at a facility for the purposes of subclause (3), the only persons permitted to attend the facility are those necessary for the performance and the broadcasting of that performance to occur.

Restricted Activity Directions Non-Melbourne Aug 6 (Item 7, p.5-6) ¹

NOTE 1: Performers, artists and crew must NOT be travelling from Melbourne for these recorded/ streamed performances. Use local performers.

NOTE 2: This exemption **does not apply to Stage 4 Restricted area venues** (Metropolitan Melbourne) where the Stage 4 Industries Advice directs that all 'Creative and Performing Arts Activities' are CLOSED for On-Site Work.²

Streaming performances from the home where the performer lives without any external workers is the only permissible way this might occur in Stage 4 areas.

WORKERS IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

Do NOT have casual or other workers working across multiple sites. This creates a risk of transmission across multiple workplaces and has been a key cause of community transmission.

¹ Source:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202008/Restricted%20Activity%20Directions%20%28Non-Melbourne%29-06082020.pdf>

² Source: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updates/coronavirus-covid-19/premiers-statement-business-restrictions>

VAPAC

The VAPAC COVID-19 resources page continues to be updated with useful resources.

Recent additions include the Venue COVID Plan Template v.2; LPA Safe Guidelines for Touring, Rehearsals and Performances; PAC (Aust) Guidelines for Safe Theatres; and Arts Centre Melbourne Return to Work learning Resource.

<https://vapac.org.au/covid-19-resources/>

Creative Victoria

Creative Victoria have updated their Coronavirus page with a range of links and information that may be helpful for people including a Q&A, Business Support fund and etc.

<https://creative.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

The Creative Vic ‘back to business guidelines’ have been removed for now: “Due to the current restrictions, the Arts and Culture Return-to-Business guidelines will be reviewed and republished ahead of venues being able to reopen.”