

# **Guidance for the Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order 2022 (No. 7)**

This Order requires persons to limit the spread of COVID-19 including by requiring persons who are:

- (1) diagnosed with COVID-19 or probable cases to self-isolate; or
- (2) close contacts to self-quarantine and undertake testing; or
- (3) exposed persons, social contacts or symptomatic persons in the community to observe relevant testing requirements issued by the Department.

There are different requirements for self-quarantine and testing depending on the level of exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

Failure to comply with this Order may result in penalties.

*This guidance does not form part of the Pandemic (Quarantine Isolation and Testing) Order 2022 (No. 7) and it is for explanatory purposes only.*

# **Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order 2022 (No. 7)**

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# **Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order 2022 (No. 7)**

I, Martin Foley, Minister for Health, make the following Order under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 in the belief that this Order is reasonably necessary to protect public health throughout Victoria from the serious risk arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic disease.

## **Part 1 - Preliminary**

### **2 Objective**

The objective of this Order is to require persons to limit the spread of COVID-19 including by requiring persons:

- (1) diagnosed with COVID-19 or who are probable cases to self-isolate;
- (2) who are living with a diagnosed person or a probable case or who have been in close contact with a diagnosed person or a probable case, to self-quarantine and undertake testing;
- (3) who are exposed persons, social contacts or symptomatic persons in the community to observe relevant testing requirements issued by the Department.

### **3 Citation**

This Order may be referred to as the **Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order 2022 (No. 7)**.

### **4 Authorising provision**

This Order is made under section 165AI of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**.

### **5 Commencement and revocation**

- (1) This Order commences at 11:59:00pm on 12 April 2022 and ends at 11:59:00pm on 12 July 2022.
- (2) The **Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order 2022 (No. 6)** is revoked at 11:59:00pm on 12 April 2022.

### **6 Definitions**

Terms used in this Order have the meanings set out in Schedule 1.

## **7 Application of this Order**

- (1) This Order applies to the whole State of Victoria.
- (2) This Order does not apply to a person during the period in which they are detained pursuant to a direction given by an authorised officer under section 165B or section 165BA of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**.

## **Part 2 – Self-isolation for diagnosed persons**

### **8 Who is a diagnosed person?**

- (1) A person is a diagnosed person if the person at any time before, on or after the commencement of this Order, has received a positive result from a COVID-19 PCR test and is not a recent confirmed case.
- (2) A person ceases to be a diagnosed person when they have completed self-isolation in accordance with this Part 2 or a Revoked Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Order.

### **9 Requirement to self-isolate**

A diagnosed person must self-isolate under this Order:

- (1) if the diagnosis is communicated to the person on or after the commencement of this Order; or
- (2) if the diagnosis was communicated to the person before the commencement of this Order.

*Note: the requirements of self-isolation are specified in clause 35. A diagnosed person can still leave the premises at which they are self-isolating to obtain medical care.*

### **10 Location of self-isolation**

- (1) A diagnosed person must self-isolate:
  - (a) if clause 9(1) applies, at the premises chosen by the person under subclause (2); or
  - (b) if clause 9(2) applies, at the premises at which the person was required to reside under a Revoked Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Order.
- (2) For the purposes of subclause (1)(a), the diagnosed person may choose to self-isolate at:
  - (a) a premises at which they ordinarily reside; or

- (b) another premises that is suitable for the person to reside in for the purpose of self-isolation.

*Note 1: a person can decide to self-isolate at a hotel or other suitable location, instead of self-isolating at their ordinary place of residence.*

*Note 2: once a person has chosen the premises at which to self-isolate, the person must reside at that premises for the entirety of the period of self-isolation unless an exemption to move to and self-isolate at an alternate premises has been given: see clauses 35(2)(a) and 35(4).*

- (3) If a diagnosed person who has chosen a premises under subclause (2) is not at the premises at the time when the choice is made, the person must immediately and directly travel to that premises, unless the person is admitted to a hospital or other facility for the purposes of receiving medical care.

## **11 Self-isolation period**

- (1) For the purposes of clause 8, the period of self-isolation begins:
  - (a) if clause 9(1) applies, when the diagnosis is communicated to the person;  
or
  - (b) if clause 9(2) applies, upon the commencement of this Order.
- (2) For the purposes of clause 9 and subject to clause 38, the period of self-isolation ends seven days from the date on which the person undertook a COVID-19 PCR test, from which they were diagnosed with COVID-19.

*Note: if a person's period of self-isolation ends before the commencement of this Order, they are not required to self-isolate on the commencement of this Order. If a person's period of self-isolation begins but does not end before the commencement of this Order, they are only required to self-isolate for the remainder of their self-isolation period on the commencement of this Order.*

## **12 Notifications by the diagnosed person**

- (1) Immediately after choosing a premises under clause 10(2), the diagnosed person must:
  - (a) if any other person is residing at the premises chosen by the diagnosed person, notify the other person that:
    - (i) the diagnosed person has been diagnosed with COVID-19; and
    - (ii) the diagnosed person has chosen to self-isolate at the premises; and
  - (b) notify the Department of the address of the premises chosen by the diagnosed person.

- (2) If, during the period that a diagnosed person is self-isolating at a premises for the purposes of clause 9, another person informs the diagnosed person that they intend to commence residing at the premises chosen by the diagnosed person, the diagnosed person must inform the other person of their diagnosis.
- (3) The diagnosed person must as soon as practicable notify the persons listed below that the diagnosed person has been diagnosed with COVID-19, and of the diagnosed person's infectious period:
  - (a) the operator of any education facility at which they are enrolled, if the diagnosed person attended an indoor space at the education facility during their infectious period; and  
*Note: the diagnosed person's parent, guardian or carer may notify the operator of the education facility on behalf of the diagnosed person for the purpose of paragraph (a).*
  - (b) any person who is a close contact or a social contact of the diagnosed person, to the extent the diagnosed person is able to reasonably ascertain and notify such person.

## **Part 3 – Self-isolation for probable cases**

### **13 Who is a probable case?**

- (1) A person is a probable case if the person at any time before, on or after the commencement of this Order, has received a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test and is not a recent confirmed case.
- (2) A person ceases to be a probable case after the person has completed self-isolation in accordance with this Part 3.

### **14 Requirement to self-isolate**

A probable case must self-isolate under this Order:

- (1) if the person received the positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test on or after the commencement of this Order; or
- (2) if the person received the positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test before the commencement of this Order.

*Note: the requirements of self-isolation are specified in clause 35. A probable case can still leave the premises at which they are self-isolating to obtain medical care.*

### **15 Location of self-isolation**

- (1) A probable case must self-isolate:



- (a) if clause 14(1) applies, at the premises chosen by the person under subclause 10(2); or
  - (b) if clause 14(2) applies, at the premises at which the person was required to reside under a Revoked Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Order.
- (2) For the purposes of subclause (1)(a), the probable case may choose to self-isolate at:
- (a) a premises at which they ordinarily reside; or
  - (b) another premises that is suitable for the person to reside in for the purpose of self-isolation.

*Note 1: a person can decide to self-isolate at a hotel or other suitable location, instead of self-isolating at their ordinary place of residence.*

*Note 2: once a person has chosen the premises at which to self-isolate, the person must reside at that premises for the entirety of the period of self-isolation unless an exemption to move to and self-isolate at an alternative premises has been given: see clauses 35(2)(a) and 35(4).*

- (3) If a probable case who has chosen a premises under subclause (2) is not at the premises at the time when the choice is made, the person must immediately and directly travel to that premises, unless the person is admitted to a hospital or other facility for the purposes of receiving medical care.

## **16 Self-isolation period**

- (1) For the purposes of clause 14, the period of self-isolation begins:
- (a) if clause 14(1) applies, when the probable case received a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test; or
  - (b) if clause 14(2) applies, upon the commencement of this Order.
- (2) For the purposes of clause 14 and subject to clause 38, the period of self-isolation ends on the earlier of:
- (a) seven days from the date on which the probable case received a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test; or
  - (b) the day on which a negative result is received by the probable case from a COVID-19 PCR test that was undertaken within 48 hours after the COVID-19 rapid antigen test from which the person became a probable case.

*Note 1: if the probable case undertakes a COVID-19 PCR test within 48 hours after receiving the positive result from the COVID-19 rapid antigen test and receives a positive result from the COVID-19 PCR test, the probable case is not required to*

*restart their self-isolation period; that period still begins from the relevant date under subclause (1).*

*Note 2: if a person's period of self-isolation ends before the commencement of this Order, they are not required to self-isolate on the commencement of this Order. If a person's period of self-isolation begins but does not end before the commencement of this Order, they are only required to self-isolate for the remainder of their self-isolation period on the commencement of this Order.*

## **17 Notification by the probable case**

- (1) Immediately after choosing a premises under clause 15(2), the probable case must:
    - (a) if any other person is residing at the premises chosen by the probable case, notify the other person that:
      - (i) the probable case has received a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test; and
      - (ii) the probable case has chosen to self-isolate at the premises; and
    - (b) notify the Department of the positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test by submitting a COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form or by calling the Department's COVID-19 hotline and providing:
      - (i) the positive result from the COVID-19 Rapid antigen test; and
      - (ii) the address of the premises chosen by the probable case.
- Note: notification to the Department is to occur by the submission of the COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form online at [dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapid-antigen-test/](https://dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapid-antigen-test/) as amended or reissued from time to time by the Secretary of the Department or by calling the Department's COVID-19 hotline on 1300 651 160.*
- (2) If, during the period that a probable case is self-isolating at a premises for the purposes of clause 14, another person informs the probable case that they intend to commence residing at the premises chosen by the probable case, the probable case must inform the other person of their positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test.
  - (3) The probable case must as soon as practicable notify the persons listed below that the probable case has received a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test, and of the probable case's infectious period:

- (a) the operator of any education facility at which they are enrolled, if the probable case attended an indoor space at the education facility during their infectious period; and

*Note: the probable case's parent, guardian or carer may notify the operator of the education facility on behalf of the probable case for the purpose of paragraph (a).*

- (b) any person who is a close contact or a social contact of the probable case, to the extent the probable case is able to reasonably ascertain and notify such person.

## **Part 4 – Self-quarantine for close contacts**

### **18 Who is a close contact?**

- (1) A person is a close contact if the person is not a recent confirmed case and before, on or after the commencement of this Order:
  - (a) an officer or nominated representative of the Department makes a determination that the person is a close contact of a diagnosed person or a probable case, including in the event of an outbreak, and has given that person a notice of the determination in accordance with subclause (2); or
  - (b) the person has spent more than four hours in an indoor space at a private residence, accommodation premises or care facility with a diagnosed person or a probable case during their infectious period.
- (2) For the purposes of subclause (1)(a), the notice:
  - (a) may be given orally or in writing, and, if given orally, must be confirmed in writing as soon as reasonably practicable; and
  - (b) is not required to be in a particular form.

### **19 Requirement to self-quarantine**

Subject to clause 23, a close contact must self-quarantine under this Order:

- (1) if the person becomes a close contact on or after the commencement of this Order; or
- (2) if the person became a close contact before the commencement of this Order.

*Note: the requirements of self-quarantine are specified in clause 35.*

### **20 Location of self-quarantine**

- (1) A close contact may choose to self-quarantine:

- (a) if clause 19(1) applies, at:
  - (i) a premises at which they ordinarily reside; or
  - (ii) another premises that is suitable for the person to reside in for the purpose of self-quarantine; or

*Note 1: a person can decide to self-quarantine at a hotel or other suitable location, instead of self-quarantining at their ordinary place of residence.*

*Note 2: once a person has chosen the premises at which to self-quarantine, the person must reside at that premises for the entirety of the period of self-quarantine unless an exemption to move to and self-quarantine at an alternate premises has been given: see clauses 35(2)(a) and 35(4).*

- (b) if clause 19(2) applies, at a premises at which the person was permitted to reside under a Revoked Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Order.
- (2) If, at the time a person becomes aware or is given notice that they are a close contact, the person is not at the premises chosen by the person under subclause (1), the person must immediately and directly travel to those premises.

## **21 Self-quarantine period**

- (1) Subject to clause 22 and if clause 19(1) applies, if a close contact self-quarantines at the same premises where the diagnosed person or the probable case is self-isolating, the close contact's period of self-quarantine begins:
  - (a) on the date the diagnosed person undertook a COVID-19 PCR test, from which they were diagnosed with COVID-19; or
  - (b) on the date the probable case received a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test.
- (2) Subject to clause 22 and if clause 19(1) applies, if a close contact self-quarantines at a different premises from where the diagnosed person or the probable case is self-isolating, the close contact's period of self-quarantine begins from the date the close contact most recently had in-person contact with the diagnosed person or the probable case.
- (3) Subject to clause 22 and if clause 19(2) applies, a close contact period of self-quarantine begins upon the commencement of this Order.

## **22 End of period of self-quarantine**

For the purposes of this clause, the period of self-quarantine ends on the earlier of:

- (1) subject to subclauses (2) to (5), seven days from the relevant date specified under clause 21(1) or 21(2) or as varied or revoked under clause 24; or

- (2) if the notice given to the person under clause 18(1)(a) is revoked under clause 24, at the time that revocation takes effect; or
- (3) if the person becomes a diagnosed person, when the diagnosis is communicated to the person; or

*Note: a close contact who becomes a diagnosed person will then be required to self-isolate under clause 9.*

- (4) if the person becomes a probable case, the date the person receives a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test; or

*Note: a close contact who becomes a probable case will then be required to self-isolate under clause 14.*

- (5) if the person is a close contact of a probable case, the date the probable case receives a negative test result from a COVID-19 PCR test that was undertaken within 48 hours after the COVID-19 rapid antigen test from which the person became a probable case.

*Note: a close contact of a probable case may end self-quarantine early if the probable case receives a negative COVID-19 PCR test result before the seven day self-isolation period provided that the COVID-19 PCR test is undertaken within 48 hours of the COVID-19 rapid antigen test.*

*Note: if a person's period of self-quarantine ends before the commencement of this Order, they are not required to self-quarantine on the commencement of this Order. If a person's period of self-quarantine begins but does not end before the commencement of this Order, they are only required to self-quarantine for the remainder of their self-quarantine period on the commencement of this Order.*

## **23 Exception — previous clearance**

- (1) A close contact is not required to self-quarantine under this clause if the person has been given clearance from self-quarantine by the Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit in accordance with subclause (2).
- (2) For the purposes of subclause (1):
  - (a) the Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit may make a determination in relation to a person if the Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit is satisfied that the person is at negligible risk of infection of COVID-19, on the basis that the person has previously been a diagnosed person or probable case and has since been given clearance from self-isolation and must give the person notice of the decision; and
  - (b) for the purposes of paragraph (a), the notice must be in writing but is not required to be in a particular form.

## **24 Review of determination and notice**

- (1) The Chief Health Officer, a Deputy Chief Health Officer, a Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit or an authorised officer who is authorised to exercise the pandemic management powers under section 165AW(2) of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**, may review a determination made under clause 18(1)(a) and, if satisfied that it is appropriate, having regard to Departmental Requirements, may vary or revoke the notice given to the person under clause 18(1)(a) and must give the person notice of the decision.
- (2) For the purposes of subclause (1), the notice must be given in writing but is not required to be in a particular form.

## **25 Notifications by the close contact**

If a close contact is required to self-quarantine under clause 19 and, during the period of self-quarantine, another person informs the close contact that they intend to commence residing at the premises chosen by the close contact, the close contact must inform the other person of their self-quarantine.

## **26 Testing of persons in self-quarantine**

- (1) A close contact must comply with the relevant requirements set out in the Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons and, where applicable, follow the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.
- (2) If a close contact is required to self-quarantine under clause 19 and, during the period of self-quarantine, the person receives a COVID-19 PCR test result stating that they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the person becomes a diagnosed person and must self-isolate under clause 9.
- (3) If a close contact is required to self-quarantine under clause 19 and, during the period of self-quarantine, the person receives a positive result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test, the person becomes a probable case and must self-isolate under clause 14.
- (4) If a close contact of a diagnosed person or a probable case is required to self-quarantine under clause 19 and, during the period of self-quarantine, the person receives a negative result from a COVID-19 rapid antigen test or a COVID-19 PCR test result stating that they have not been diagnosed with COVID-19, the person must, if the period of self-quarantine has not expired, continue to self-quarantine under clause 19 for the remainder of the self-quarantine period.

## **Part 5 – Exposed persons**

### **27 Who is an exposed person?**

For the purposes of this clause, a person is an exposed person if:

- (1) the person is a worker who has attended a work premises; and
- (2) the worker is not a close contact or a recent confirmed case; and
- (3) the worker has spent at least:
  - (a) 15 minutes of face-to-face contact; or
  - (b) two hours in an indoor space,at the work premises with a diagnosed person or a probable case during the diagnosed person's or the probable case's infectious period.

### **28 Testing Requirements of exposed persons**

A person who is an exposed person must comply with the relevant requirements set out in the Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons and, where applicable, follow the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.

## **Part 6 – Education facility obligations**

### **29 Notifications by the operator of an education facility**

An operator of an education facility who has been informed under clause 12(3)(a) or 17(3)(a) that a diagnosed person or a probable case attended that education facility during the diagnosed person's or the probable case's infectious period must take reasonable steps to notify the parents, guardians and carers of the persons enrolled at the education facility during the relevant infectious period:

- (1) that a diagnosed person or probable case has attended the education facility during the diagnosed person's or probable case's infectious period; and
- (2) to monitor if the person enrolled at the education facility begins to experience COVID-19 symptoms; and
- (3) that the person enrolled at the education facility must, if they begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms, comply with the relevant requirements set out in the Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons and, where applicable, follow the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.

### **30 Collection of information by operators of an education facility**

- (1) The operator of an education facility must collect, record and store the following information:
  - (a) the dates on which they were notified under clause 12(3)(a) or 17(3)(a) of any diagnosed persons or probable cases who attended the education facility during their infectious period; and
  - (b) the dates that any diagnosed persons or probable cases attended the education facility during their infectious period.
- (2) For the purposes of complying with this clause, an operator of an education facility is authorised to use any information that it holds under subclause (1).

## **Part 7 – Social contacts and symptomatic persons in the community**

### **31 Who is a social contact?**

A person is a social contact if:

- (1) the person has spent more than 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a diagnosed person or a probable case during the diagnosed person's or a probable case's infectious period; or
- (2) the person has spent more than two hours in an indoor space with a diagnosed person or a probable case during the diagnosed person's or the probable case's infectious period; and

the person is not a close contact, exposed person or recent confirmed case.

### **32 Testing of social contacts**

A social contact must comply with the relevant requirements set out in the Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons and, where applicable, follow the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.

### **33 Who is a symptomatic person in the community?**

A person is a symptomatic person in the community if:

- (1) the person is experiencing one or more COVID-19 symptoms, unless those symptoms are caused by an underlying health condition or medication; and
- (2) the person is not a close contact, exposed person, social contact or a recent confirmed case.



### 34 Testing of symptomatic person in the community

A symptomatic person in the community must comply with the relevant requirements set out in the Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons and, where applicable, follow the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.

## Part 8 – General provisions

### 35 Requirements of self-isolation and self-quarantine

- (1) This clause applies to a person who is required to:
  - (a) self-isolate at a premises under clauses 9 or 14; or
  - (b) self-quarantine at a premises under clause 19.
- (2) The person identified in subclause (1):
  - (a) must reside at the premises for the entirety of the period of self-isolation or self-quarantine, as the case requires, except for any period that the person is admitted to a hospital or other facility for the purposes of receiving medical care; and
  - (b) must not leave the premises, except:
    - (i) for the purposes of obtaining medical care or medical supplies; or
    - (ii) for the purposes of transporting another person with whom they reside to or from a hospital if the person identified in subclause (1) is asymptomatic for COVID-19; or
    - (iii) for the purposes of getting tested for COVID-19; or
    - (iv) in any emergency situation; or
    - (v) if required to do so by law; or
    - (vi) for the purposes of visiting a patient in hospital if permitted to do so under the **Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities Order**; or
    - (vii) for the purposes of working in a care facility if permitted to do so under the **Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities Order**; or
    - (viii) for the purpose of sitting a Senior Secondary examination provided that the person is not a diagnosed person or a probable case; and

- (c) must not permit any other person to enter the premises unless:
  - (i) that other person:
    - (A) ordinarily resides at the premises; or
    - (B) is required to self-isolate or self-quarantine at the premises under this Order; or
  - (ii) it is necessary for the other person to enter for medical or emergency purposes; or
  - (iii) the other person is a disability worker, and it is necessary for the disability worker to enter for the purpose of providing a disability service to a person with a disability; or
  - (iv) it is necessary for the other person to enter for the purpose of providing personal care or household assistance to the person as a result of that person's age, disability or chronic health condition; or

*Examples: personal care includes assistance with showering, toileting, eating; household assistance includes help with cooking, house cleaning, laundry and gardening.*

- (v) the entry is otherwise required or authorised by law.

- (3) Subclause (2)(c) does not apply to a person who is a resident of a care facility.

*Note: the **Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities Order** governs who can enter a care facility.*

- (4) Despite subclause (2)(a):

- (a) a diagnosed person or a probable case who is required to self-isolate; or
- (b) a close contact who is required to self-quarantine,

may apply under clause 39(2) to the Chief Health Officer, a Deputy Chief Health Officer, a Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit for an exemption from the requirement to remain at the premises chosen for the purposes of subclause (2)(a) for the purpose of moving to an alternate premises for the remainder of the period of self-quarantine or self-isolation.

- (5) Despite subclause (2)(a), a healthcare worker who is a close contact and required to self-quarantine, may apply to the Chief Health Officer, a Deputy Chief Health Officer or a Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit under clause 40(2) for an exemption from the requirement to remain at the premises chosen for the purposes of subclause (2)(a) for the purpose of a healthcare worker who is a close contact returning to work.

### 36 Service Victoria authorisation

- (1) The Service Victoria CEO may:
  - (a) collect and display information to demonstrate a rapid antigen test result using the Service Victoria Platform; and
  - (b) collect and display other information relating to the rapid antigen test result, including related personal information and health information, using the Service Victoria Platform; and
  - (c) share information collected under paragraph (a) and (b) with the Department; and
  - (d) store and display the history of rapid antigen test results and enable the sharing of this information by a person using the Service Victoria Platform; and
  - (e) provide exposure notifications to persons through the Service Victoria Platform advising that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 in accordance with data managed by the Department.
- (2) Where a person is unable to use the Service Victoria Platform to demonstrate their rapid antigen test result, that information may be collected from another person on behalf of the person who is unable to use the Service Victoria Platform, using the Service Victoria Platform.
- (3) The Service Victoria CEO must delete any rapid antigen test result and related information collected under subclause (1)(a) and (1)(b) as soon as practicable after seven days of it being collected using the Service Victoria Platform.
- (4) Persons who receive a notification under subclause (1)(e) must follow any direction contained in the notification received through the Service Victoria Platform.

### 37 General exemption power

- (1) A person is not required to comply with a requirement of this Order if the person is granted an exemption from that requirement under subclause (2).
- (2) The Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Officer may exempt a person or a group of persons, from any or all requirements contained in this Order, if satisfied that an exemption is appropriate, having regard to the:
  - (a) need to protect public health; and
  - (b) principles in sections 5 to 10 of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**, as appropriate.
- (3) An exemption under subclause (2) must:

- (a) be given, in writing, to the person or a group of persons the subject of the exemption; and
  - (b) specify the requirement or requirements that the person or a group of persons need not comply with.
- (4) An exemption granted to a person or group of persons under this clause does not prevent an authorised officer from exercising a pandemic management power to give a person or a group of persons a different order or impose a different requirement on the person or group of persons.

**38 Exemption power – variation to the period of self-isolation for a diagnosed person or a probable case**

- (1) If a person is granted an exemption from the requirement under subclause 39(2), they:
- (a) are not required to comply with the requirement to remain in self-isolation for the period specified in clause 10 (if the person is a diagnosed person) or clause 15 (if the person is a probable case); and
  - (b) must comply with the period of self-isolation specified in the exemption.
- (2) The Chief Health Officer, a Deputy Chief Health Officer or a Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit may:
- (a) exempt a person or group of persons from requirement to remain in self-isolation for the period specified in clause 11 (if the person is a diagnosed person) or clause 16 (if the person is a probable case); and
  - (b) require the person or group of persons to self-isolate for a shorter period of time,
- if satisfied that an exemption is appropriate having regard to the:
- (c) need to protect public health; and
  - (d) principles in sections 5 to 10 of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**, as appropriate.
- (3) An exemption under subclause (2) must:
- (a) be given, in writing, to the person the subject of the exemption; and
  - (b) specify the requirement or requirements that the person need not comply with; and
  - (c) the period of time during which they must self-isolate.

- (4) An exemption granted to a person under subclause (2) does not prevent an authorised officer from exercising a pandemic management power to give the person a different order or impose a different requirement on the person.

### **39 Exemption power – alternate premises for self-quarantine or self-isolation**

- (1) A person is not required to comply with the requirement to remain at the premises chosen for the purposes of clause 35(2)(a) for the purpose of moving to an alternate premises for the remainder of the period of self-isolation or self-quarantine if the person is granted an exemption from the requirement under subclause (2).
- (2) The Chief Health Officer, a Deputy Chief Health Officer or a Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit may exempt a person or group of persons from any or all requirements in clauses 10(1), 10(2), 15(1), 15(2) (location of self-isolation) or 20 (location of self-quarantine) or 35(2)(a), if satisfied that an exemption from a requirement is appropriate having regard to the:
  - (a) need to protect public health; and
  - (b) principles in sections 5 to 10 of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**, as appropriate.
- (3) An exemption under subclause (2) must:
  - (a) be given, in writing, to the person the subject of the exemption; and
  - (b) specify the requirement or requirements that the person need not comply with.
- (4) An exemption granted to a person under subclause (2) does not prevent an authorised officer from exercising a pandemic management power to give the person a different order or impose a different requirement on the person.

### **40 Exemption power – healthcare worker who is a close contact - return to work**

- (1) A healthcare worker who is a close contact is not required to comply with a requirement to remain at the premises chosen for the purposes of clause 35(2)(a) for the purpose of the healthcare worker returning to work if the person is granted an exemption from the requirement under subclause (2).
- (2) The Chief Health Officer, a Deputy Chief Health Officer, a Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit may exempt a person from any or all of the requirements of clause 20 (location of self-quarantine) or clause 35(2)(a), if satisfied that an exemption from that requirement is appropriate having regard to the:
  - (a) need to protect public health; and

- (b) principles in sections 5 to 10 of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**, as appropriate.
- (3) An exemption under subclause (2) must:
  - (a) be given, in writing, to the person the subject of the exemption; and
  - (b) specify the requirement or requirements that the person need not comply with.
- (4) An exemption granted to a person under subclause (2) does not prevent an authorised officer from exercising a pandemic management power to give the person a different order or impose a different requirement on the person.

#### **41 Severability**

To the extent that any part of this Order is held to be in excess of power or otherwise invalid it is intended that it is to be taken to be valid to the extent to which it is not in excess of that power.

#### **42 Transitional provisions**

- (1) A reference in any pandemic order in force to a Revoked Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Order is taken on and after the commencement of this Order to be a reference to this Order.
- (2) Any act, matter or thing that had effect under a Revoked Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Order immediately before it was revoked continues to have effect under this Order.
- (3) Without limiting subclause (2), this Order is subject to any exemption, benefit, requirement or entitlement (however described) to which a Revoked Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Order was subject immediately before it was revoked.
- (4) This clause is subject to any express provision to the contrary in this Order.

### **Part 9 - Penalties**

#### **43 Penalties**

Section 165BN of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008** provides:

##### **Failure to comply with pandemic order, direction or other requirement**

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person refuses or fails to comply with a pandemic order, or with a direction given to the person, or a requirement made of the person, in the exercise of a pandemic management power.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 60 penalty units

Penalty: In the case of a body corporate, 300 penalty units

- (2) A person is not guilty of an offence against subsection (1) if the person had a reasonable excuse for refusing or failing to comply.

*Note: the **Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019** provide for infringement notices to be served on any person who has refused or failed to comply (without a reasonable excuse) with a pandemic order, or a direction given or a requirement made in the exercise of a pandemic management power. The amount payable pursuant to the infringement notice varies depending on the nature of the failure or refusal and the age of the person.*

## Schedule 1 - Definitions

For the purposes of this Order:

**accommodation premises** has the same meaning as in the **Open Premises Order**;

**authorised officer** has the same meaning as in the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**;

**care facility** has the same meaning as in the **Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities Order**;

**childcare or early childhood service** means onsite early childhood education and care services or children's services provided under the:

- (1) **Education and Care Services National Law 2010** and the **Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011**, including long day care services, kindergartens and/or preschool and family daycare services, but not including outside school hours care services; and
- (2) **Children's Services Act 1996**, including limited hours services, budget based funded services, occasional care services, early childhood intervention services, mobile services and (if applicable) school holiday care programs;

**close contact** has the meaning in clause 18(1);

**COVID-19** means the contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2;

**COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Specified Workers) Order** means the **Pandemic COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Specified Workers) Order 2022 (No. 6)** as amended or replaced from time to time;

**COVID-19 PCR test** means a COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction test;

**COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form** means the form titled 'COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form', as amended or reissued from time to time by the Secretary of the Department and available at [dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapid-antigen-test/](http://dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapid-antigen-test/);

**COVID-19 rapid antigen test** means a COVID-19 rapid antigen test;

**COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure** means if a person completed a COVID-19 rapid antigen test:

- (1) the person must undertake a second COVID-19 rapid antigen test as soon as possible if the person receives an invalid test result from the first COVID-19 rapid antigen test, such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is a negative test result; and
- (2) if the result of the second COVID-19 rapid antigen test is invalid such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is negative, the person must complete a



COVID-19 PCR test within 24 hours and remain in self-quarantine until the person receives a negative test result;

**COVID-19 symptoms** means the following symptoms that a person may experience:

- (1) fever;
- (2) chills or sweats;
- (3) cough;
- (4) sore throat;
- (5) shortness of breath;
- (6) runny nose;
- (7) loss of or change in sense of smell or taste;

**COVID-19 vaccine** means either a one dose COVID-19 vaccine or a two dose COVID-19 vaccine;

**Department** means the Victorian Department of Health;

**Departmental Requirements** means the document titled 'Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Policy', as amended or reissued from time to time by the Victorian Government with the approval of the Chief Health Officer or a Deputy Chief Health Officer;

**designated Local Public Health Unit** means:

- (1) Western Public Health Unit;
- (2) South Eastern Public Health Unit;
- (3) North Eastern Public Health Unit;
- (4) Barwon South West Public Health Unit;
- (5) Grampians Wimmera Southern Mallee Public Health Unit;
- (6) Loddon-Mallee Public Health Unit;
- (7) (Hume) Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit;
- (8) (Hume) Albury-Wodonga Public Health Unit;
- (9) Gippsland Public Health Unit;

**diagnosed person** has the meaning in clause 8;

**Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit** means a person with the title of Director or Medical Lead in a designated Local Public Health Unit who is authorised under section 165AW(2)(a) of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008** to exercise the pandemic management powers or to exercise public health risk powers;

**disability** has the same meaning as in the **Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018**;

**disability service** has the same meaning as in the **Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018**;

**disability worker** has the same meaning as in the **Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018**;

**education facility** means:

- (1) premises at which a childcare or early childhood service is provided;
- (2) premises at which an outside school hours care service is provided;
- (3) a school;
- (4) school boarding premises;

**employee** includes a person who is self-employed;

**employer** means a person who owns, operates or controls work premises (or a work premises) and includes a person who is self-employed;

**excepted person** has the same meaning as in the **Open Premises Order**;

**exemption** means an exemption granted by the Chief Health Officer or the Deputy Chief Health Officer, or a Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit under clause 37(2), 38(2), 39(2), 40(2) of these directions;

**exposed person** has the meaning in clause 27;

**healthcare worker** means a worker of a health service managed by a designated Local Public Health Unit;

**hospital** has the same meaning as in the **Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities Order**;

**indoor space** means an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls that are either floor to ceiling high or are at least 2.1 metres high, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are:

- (1) permanent or temporary; or
- (2) open or closed;

**infectious period** means the period:

- (1) commencing:

- (a) if the person undertook a COVID-19 PCR test or COVID-19 rapid antigen test (from which they were diagnosed with COVID-19) without experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, 48 hours before the person undertook the COVID-19 PCR test or COVID-19 rapid antigen test; or
  - (b) if the person was experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 at the time they undertook a COVID-19 PCR test or COVID-19 rapid antigen test (from which they were diagnosed with COVID-19), 48 hours before the person first experienced symptoms; and
- (2) concluding:
- (a) seven days from the date on which the person undertook the COVID-19 PCR test or COVID-19 rapid antigen test (from which they were diagnosed with COVID-19); or
  - (b) where a person is a probable case, on the date which the probable case undertook the COVID-19 PCR test from which a negative result was received; or
  - (c) such other time as specified by an officer or nominated representative of the Department;

**one dose COVID-19 vaccine** means 'COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen' (Janssen-Cilag);

**Open Premises Order** means the **Pandemic (Open Premises) Order 2022 (No. 6)** as amended or replaced from time to time;

**outbreak** means a declaration made by the Chief Health Officer, a Deputy Chief Health Officer, a Director or Medical Lead of a designated Local Public Health Unit in relation to a specific location at which diagnosed persons or probable cases were present at a specific time, which presents a public health risk of the transmission of COVID-19;

**pandemic management powers** has the same meaning as in the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**;

**premises** means:

- (1) a building, or part of a building; and
- (2) any land on which the building is located, other than land that is available for communal use;

**probable case** has the meaning in clause 13;

**rapid antigen test result** means the result of COVID-19 rapid antigen test, whether positive, negative or invalid;

**recent confirmed case** means a person who:

- (1) has already commenced but has not completed a period of self-isolation in accordance with Part 2 or Part 3 of this Order; or
- (2) has completed a period of self-isolation in accordance with Part 2 or Part 3 of this Order and the period of self-isolation ended within the previous 8 weeks;

**resident of a care facility** has the same meaning as in the **Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities Order**;

**Revoked Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Order** means the **Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions (No 35)** or the **Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order 2022 (No. 6)**, or their predecessors;

**school** means a registered school as defined in the **Education and Training Reform Act 2006**;

**school boarding premises** means a registered school boarding premises, as defined in the **Education and Training Reform Act 2006**;

**Senior Secondary examination** means an examination relating to a senior secondary certificate;

**Service Victoria** has the same meaning as in the **Service Victoria Act 2018**;

**Service Victoria CEO** has the same meaning as in the **Service Victoria Act 2018**;

**Service Victoria Platform** means the digital system provided by the Service Victoria CEO and other parts of the Victorian Government;

**social contact** has the meaning in clause 31;

**symptomatic person in the community** has the meaning in clause 33;

**Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons** means the document titled 'Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons' as amended or reissued from time to time by the Secretary of the Department of Health;

**two dose COVID-19 vaccine** means any of the following:

- (1) Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca);
- (2) Comirnaty (Pfizer);
- (3) Spikevax (Moderna);
- (4) Coronavac (Sinovac);
- (5) Covishield (Astrazeneca/Serum Institute of India);
- (6) Covaxin (Bharat Biotech);
- (7) BBIP-CorV (Sinopharm);

- (8) Sputnik V (Gamaleva Research Institute);
- (9) Nuvaxovid (Biocelect on behalf of Novavax);

**Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities Order** means the **Pandemic (Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities) Order 2022 (No. 5)** as amended or replaced from time to time;

**work premises** means the premises of an employer in which work is undertaken, including any vehicle whilst being used for work purposes, but excluding a worker's ordinary place of residence;

**worker** includes employees, subcontractors (and their employees), volunteers and any other person engaged or permitted by an employer to perform work.



**Martin Foley MP, Minister for Health**

11 April 2022