



Building & Construction Industry

COVID-19 Update Wednesday 2 June 2021

Update on the Lockdown and Positive Cases

There were 6 new positive cases reported in Victoria yesterday – bringing the total from this current outbreak to 60, with 67 active cases. There are 364 public exposure sites listed on the website and I urge you to look at these on a daily basis to communicate to your workforce. Ensure that no worker that has been at those sites during the specified period is allowed to enter the site and/or commence work.

By now you will all be aware of the extension of this circuit breaker lockdown until midnight 10 June and then for restrictions to be eased but I don't expect to be removed completely. There are different rules in place for Regional Victoria to apply from midnight tomorrow. Rather than try to list these, I will attach the latest statement from the government to the covering email.

Our industry continues to be rewarded for its discipline and observance of the Industry COVID-19 Guidelines by being allowed to continue to operate at full capacity and now further provision has been allowed for outdoor work in the residential sector from Friday. Again, rather than try to list these, I will attach the latest document from the government to the covering email.

General Advice and Recommendations

Following on from yesterday's general advice and recommendations list, I am able to clarify the Department of Health's approach to dealing with co-workers of persons who have been at public exposure sites and directed to isolate or quarantine for 14 days. The following advice has been checked by the team at Department of Health dedicated to managing the outbreak in our industry and my thanks to Natasha for her/their prompt responses to our issues and questions.

"1 You must follow any instruction which may be given to you by DH (usually none, as they are not the ones that have been at the exposure sites). Close contacts will be advised during their interview by DH if their workplace secondary close contacts will need to quarantine.

2 If you have been working in close contact with a fellow worker who has been directed to isolate or quarantine, or if you have any concerns about your proximity to that worker and you have any symptoms, even mild - get tested and isolate until you have a negative result while awaiting further advice.

3 So far as the worksite is concerned, I am not recommending additional or deep cleaning as this is not the exposure site. (I agree with this)

*4. If the workplace is concerned or uncertain, they can contact COVIDemployernotifications@dhhs.vic.gov.au and request advice – please ensure your email is clear that it is regarding a **close contact** that attended the workplace."*

As I write and touch wood, no construction site is yet listed as a Public Exposure site – let's keep it that way!

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