

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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3 July 2020

New public health order on COVID-19 hotspots

A new Public Health Order has been released in response to the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Victoria.

The order directs that an affected person must not travel to NSW unless:

- They are a NSW resident
- They are entering to obtain medical or other care
- To fulfil a legal obligation or give effect to a court order, or
- To provide an essential service as defined in the Order.

If an affected person enters NSW, they must self-isolate at their place of residence or another suitable place and remain there until 14 days have passed since the person was in a COVID-19 hotspot.

Travelling from Victoria and feel unwell? Get tested immediately and isolate yourself.

COVID-19 community outbreaks are occurring in Melbourne, especially in these areas: Hume, Brimbank, Casey, Darebin, Moreland and Cardinia.

For a list of COVID-19 testing clinics visit:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics>



NSW Health has prepared [health advice](#) for people who have been in a hotspot in Victoria in the past 14 days.

People who [breach the rules](#) face an \$11,000 fine and six months in prison.

For more information, including exemptions and permissible reasons for affected persons to leave their home, please click [here](#).

Updated guidance for councils regarding the latest Public Health Order can also be viewed [here](#).



Steps to become a COVIDSafe business

Councils are encouraged to disseminate information to local businesses and community organisations on how to comply with the Public Health Order, with thousands expected to reopen their

doors this weekend after the easing of restrictions on July 1.

Businesses of all industries can visit [this page](#) to access COVID Safety Plan templates and register as a COVIDSafe business.

The NSW Government has developed the COVIDSafe Check app, which allows customers to give feedback in real time to businesses, and regulators for action where necessary.

Councils are asked to build on their community safety role by engaging with identified non-compliant local businesses and guide owners and operators to fulfil their obligations under the latest Public Health Order.

All enforcement action will remain a matter for the NSW Police Force.

Breach of orders made under the Public Health Act is a criminal offence and attracts heavy penalties. In the case of any business, the maximum penalty is \$55,000 and a further \$27,500 penalty may apply for each day the offence continues.

[A recently distributed circular can be found here.](#)

More information on how councils can assist in this process will be provided in the coming days.

Resources will also be available on OLG's COVID-19 webpage shortly.

Snapshot of local government services

An updated snapshot of local government facilities and services is now online to assist councils as COVID-19 restrictions are progressively eased in line with public health orders.



The snapshot can be viewed [here](#) and is for guidance only. Decisions on whether to open a facility or service remains a matter for individual councils.

Even if a service or facility is able to remain open, councils should as much as possible apply [restrictions on gathering and movement](#) and the [4m2 rule](#), maintain [physical distancing requirements](#) and good [hygiene](#) practices consistent with NSW Government advice.



Webinar with Minister Taylor

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is hosting a council webinar with Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women Bronnie Taylor (pictured) on July 7 from 2-3pm.

Invitations have been distributed to mayors and general managers with information on how they can register for the webinar.

Councils are also encouraged to submit questions they would like answered during the webinar when they register.

A recent OLG webinar with Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Gareth Ward can be viewed [here](#).

The webinars are part of a series coordinated by Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock with relevant Ministers and public officials across Government to keep mayors and general managers up to date on the latest COVID-19 information and answer their questions.

Further council webinars with Ministers will be announced shortly.



Information and resources

[Guidelines for COVIDSafe workplaces](#)

Safety plans for a range of businesses and organisations can be found [here](#), and those in the sport and recreation sector [here](#).

[Victoria and NSW holiday destinations assets for download](#)

A range of information and social media assets for NSW holiday destinations and related to Victoria are available for download [here](#).

[Job Retention Allowance payment applications](#)

Councils can still apply for the Job Retention Allowance payment of \$1,500 per fortnight, per eligible employee. Find out how in this [circular](#).

[OLG FAQs provide detailed guidance to councils](#)

Councils can access detailed FAQs on:

- [Local government legislative amendments](#)
- [Local government economic stimulus package](#)

[Quicklinks](#)

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#), [Commonwealth Government](#), [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), and [NSW Office of Local Government](#) websites.

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