



**Welcome to  
Yarra Ranges Council  
Business Re-opening Webinar**

## Restrictions are easing across metropolitan Melbourne

The [Victorian Premiers Office has announced](#) that from 11.59pm on Thursday 21 October:

- Pubs and clubs can open to 20 fully vaccinated people indoors and 50 outdoors.
- Entertainment venues can open to 50 fully vaccinated people outdoors.
- Outdoor cafes, cinemas, and physical recreation facilities like pools – will open with up to 50 people per venue but are subject to density limits and only for those fully vaccinated.
- Indoor settings like restaurants and cafes will be able to reopen with up to 20 people indoors with density limits, and only if all attendees – including workers – are fully vaccinated.
- Hairdressing and personal care will be to reopen for up to 5 fully vaccinated people.
- Large scale construction sites will increase to 100 percent capacity but only if all workers are fully vaccinated.
- Childcare will be open to children who are already attending, as well as children whose parents or guardians are fully vaccinated.

Source - Roadmap – how we live <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live>

## COVIDSafe Plan – 6 principles

- Practise physical distancing
- Wear a face mask
- Practice good hygiene
- Keep electronic records and act quickly
- Avoid interactions in enclosed spaces
- Create workforce bubbles

COVIDSafe Plans must be regularly reviewed to ensure they are current and reflect the latest advice

## Checking in using QR codes

All businesses are now required to use the Victorian Government QR Code system to assist with contact tracing of both patrons and staff entering the premises.

Venues must make reasonable efforts to support people who do not have access to or cannot use a personal mobile phone or other device to check in using the approved QR Code Service.

## COVID Check-in Marshals and COVID Marshals

COVID Check-in Marshals and COVID Marshals play important roles which ensure workplaces are COVIDSafe, protecting workers and members of the community.

## COVID-19 vaccine information

Select workers (including contractors, volunteers and students on placement) will be required to show evidence of their vaccination to their employer by a certain date in order to continue working outside their home.

From 15 October 2021, in order to work onsite at a work premises, evidence must be supplied to your employer that staff members have:

- received at least your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or
- have a booking to receive your first dose by 22 October 2021, or
- have a medical exemption evidenced by an authorised medical practitioner
- There are different vaccination requirements for different industries e.g. workers in residential aged care, construction sites, healthcare settings

# Temporary Outdoor Dining

Through funding provided by the State Government through the temporary outdoor eating and entertainment package, Council has provided a range of solutions to support townships and business in adapting to the Covid environment.

## Key Achievements:

- Temporary Outdoor Dining Program including a refined application process, online resources, fast tracked approvals, red line extensions letters, road safety assessments and DOT approvals, road safety infrastructure.
- 5 Outdoor Community Spaces to provide additional amenity for takeaway customers and encourage people to spend more time in centre
- 11 Community Parklets are being delivered across the Shire to provide additional amenity for takeaway customers and encourage people to spend more time in centre

## Additional Funding:

- The State Government has announced additional funding for Councils to support outdoor dining and entertainment solutions

## Council Support:

- Council's Maintenance and Infrastructure teams have continued to work throughout the State of Emergency to ensure our streetscapes and gardens are maintained at a high level. Additional resources are being directed to cleaning up townships over the coming weeks to ensure they're looking their best, ready for an increase in visitors.

# Footpath Trading



The Footpath Trading Permit is available to businesses that want to temporarily place items on the footpath including signage, merchandise and outdoor dining. Any retailers considering extending outdoor trade in response to the Victorian Governments Roadmap to deliver the National Plan for reopening is required to apply for a Footpath Trading Permit.

## Key Dates:

Existing permits will be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

New permit applications will be processed within 5 business days

## Fees:

- Existing Footpath Trading Permits; renewal fees waived until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022
- New Footpath Trading Permit applications; fees waived until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022



Council is waiving Footpath Trading Application & Renewal fees to support the safe reopening of local businesses in the Yarra Ranges. This decision has been made recognising the hardship experienced by our local community.

# Temporary Car Park Dining

The Temporary Car Park Dining Permit refers to Council owned Car Parks and laneways adjacent to a business, being used for extended outdoor dining on a temporary basis.

## Key Dates:

New applications will close on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Existing permits will be extended until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Businesses will be required to pack down their spaces by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Fees:

The Temporary Car Park Dining Permit will continue to be provided at **no cost**

## The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation:

In response to the ongoing State of Emergency, VCGLR will support another extension of current temporary limited licences. Council will provide renewal letters with permit extensions. Individual businesses must supply VCGLR with a copy of the renewal letter and intent to extend their current temporary limited licence.

Further Information: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Business-Yarra-Ranges/Temporary-CarPark-Dining>

# Temporary Outdoor Dining

*We are delighted with the announcement of a COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund. We are working with the Victorian Government to understand the guidelines (which have not yet been released) for the funding and will be able to update the business community shortly*

## Who can apply:

Victorian businesses, community organisations, not-for-profits and trader associations

## \$\$\$:

Grants of \$2,000 will be available when the recipient spends at least that amount to support the initiative.

## What can it be used for:

The vouchers can be used for purchasing or hiring approved infrastructure to support outdoor hospitality and entertainment, obtaining insurance and promoting outdoor operations.

## Business Victoria Grants and Programs:

- Deep cleaning grant
- Business Cost Assistance – Construction
- Small Business Adaptation Fund

## Victorian Small Business Commission

- Commercial Tenancies Relief Scheme

## Federal Support

- Commonwealth COVID-19 Disaster Payment

## Health & Wellbeing

- Partners in Wellbeing or Small Business Mentoring Services

# Scenario 1 - Confirmed case of Covid in workplace

## What to do if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the workplace

If the employee/customer presented to the workplace while infectious, best practice is to:

Undertake a risk assessment to help determine what actions are required. This may include closing part or all of the work premises.

Notify the Department of Health (DH) immediately of the case. If the Department of Health has not contacted you within 24 hours of notification please call 1300 651 160.

Consult with DH on whether the business is required to close for a short period to facilitate cleaning and enable contact tracing.

Deep cleaning: As each situation and potential exposure may vary due to different factors, The Department of Health will conduct a risk assessment and advise you of your requirements

Notify identified close contacts - ask them to quarantine and watch for symptoms.

Notify WorkSafe and other relevant industry bodies.

## Scenario 2 - Vaccination advice for workers

All businesses must follow public health orders and show evidence of vaccination status to their employer by mandated dates.

Link to public health orders here outlining Mandatory Vaccination Direction on the [coronavirus website](#).

Advice on mandatory vaccination requirements were Updated yesterday, Oct 19.

Direct any employee queries to the coronavirus website FAQs for Workers page.



## Scenario 3 - Unvaccinated patrons – Part 1

### How to support your employees with 'difficult discussions.'

Provide your staff with appropriate wording to use - for example

*“This may be difficult but as a small business, we cannot afford the possibility of a fine for non-compliance”*

- Anticipate that some patrons may be unwilling. However, don't take it personally – have clear signage and be firm.
- Ensure all QR signage is easily accessible to all patrons.
- Be conscious that patrons will have a different level of understanding around these requirements ie elderly patrons.
- It will be a transitional period for a couple of weeks, however look at how adaptable you have been recently.
- Stay connected with us for signage and resources. We will be producing Yarra Ranges collateral to assist you with this process.

### How to address an unvaccinated patron refusing to leave your venue

- Remain calm whilst engaging with the patron.
- Offer alternative service – ie take away
- Should they continue to refuse to leave your premises indicate that you may have to call police to remove them.
- Give another opportunity for person to leave. If person remains and refuses to leave. Call the **Police Assistance Line 131 444**. 000 is for urgent police assistance.

## Scenario 4 - Can I serve an unvaccinated patron take away food/drink ?

Take out service can be provided to a non-vaccinated patron ( 15 minute maximum stay) – the staff member providing service must be vaccinated –

Vaccinated patrons cannot be seated (inside or outside) unless checked in.



Source- Restaurant & Catering Association

## Scenario 5 - What happens if I don't comply with Public Health Orders ?

Authorised Officers may issue an on-the-spot \$1,817 fine if a business that is required to use electronic record keeping is not using the Victorian Government QR Code Service.

Victoria Police can issue on-the-spot fines of up to \$1,817 for adults and up to \$10,904 for businesses for:

- refusing or failing to comply with the emergency directions
- refusing or failing to comply with a public health risk power direction
- refusing or failing to comply with the Public Health Directions to provide information.

Source - Vic.gov.au [QR check in](#)

# Key Takeaways

- Empower your staff to have the hard discussions with patrons if necessary
- Yarra Ranges Business team are available to support your business, please send through any questions to [business@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)
- Yarra Ranges Council will continue with the messaging “Buy, Employ Enjoy Yarra Ranges” and “Be Kind”
- We will have upcoming webinars to assist you along this re opening journey
- To stay informed please sign up to receive the Yarra Ranges Business eNewsletters at <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Business-Yarra-Ranges>
- We will be sending out a follow up edition with information, links and resources that have been discussed today.