

COVID-19 VICTORIA

FAQS

LOCKDOWN UPDATE | METRO MELBOURNE | AUGUST 17 2021.



Further COVID restrictions are now in force for METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE until at least September 2.

The following restrictions now apply in Metropolitan Melbourne.

Note: Additional restrictions announced on Aug 16 are shown in red.

- **There are only 5 reasons to leave home:**
 - ▶ Shopping (within 5km of home, unless nearest shop further than 5km)
 - ▶ Exercise (within 5km of home, up to two hours, with one other person plus dependants if they cannot be left unattended. The other person can be from another household)
 - ▶ Authorised work or Education
 - ▶ Caregiving & medical treatments
 - ▶ To get vaccinated
- **Curfew – A curfew is now in place between 9pm and 5am daily.**
- ***Permitted Worker Permits will be required for anyone who must attend the workplace for work. This includes ministers, staff and volunteers involved in worship broadcasting. See page 2 for further detail.**
- **Masks** must be worn (indoors and outside) unless at home or with a valid exemption.
- **No visitors to the home, other than intimate partner.** Anyone who lives alone may create a “bubble” with one other person.
- **No public gatherings.**
- **Playgrounds, basketball courts, skate parks and outdoor exercise equipment is closed.**
- **The removal of masks to consume alcohol outdoors is not permitted.**
- **Worship services** – Broadcast only.
 - ▶ 5 people max in broadcasting.
 - ▶ **Must be the same 5 people each week (NOT a rotating roster).**
 - ▶ **Must all have a valid Permitted Worker Permit, submitted to Synod. See page 2 for further detail.**
- **Funerals** – maximum of 10 people plus those required to conduct the funeral.
- **Weddings may not proceed.** The only exceptions are for end-of-life or if deportation is pending.
- **Schools** – closed except for vulnerable children or children of emergency workers.
- **Adult education** – Online only.

- **Childcare and Early Learning** – may remain open.
- **Restaurants/Cafes** – Open for takeaway or delivery services only.
- **Libraries and Toy Libraries** – Click and Collect services only.
- **Residential Aged Care** – No visitors, with very limited exceptions.
- **Hospitals** – Visitors only for end-of-life, or one support person for childbirth.
- **All entertainment, hospitality, accommodation and tourism to remain closed.**
- Travel between Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria is not allowed, unless for a permitted reason.
- Residents of cross-border community local government areas will be required to obtain a permit to cross between Victoria and NSW from 6pm, Friday 13 August.

***Permitted Worker Permits are now required for anyone who is unable to work from home and whose work is permitted/essential under the current restrictions. This will again apply to all staff, ministers and volunteers of the Uniting Church. See page 2 for further detail.**

How you can help ensure Melbourne's lockdown ends

Please regularly check the list of exposure sites at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites

If you have been to any of those locations during the periods listed, follow the relevant advice for that exposure site.

Metropolitan Melbourne is defined as consisting of the following Local Government areas: Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Brimbank, Cardinia, Casey, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Greater

Dandenong, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melbourne, Melton, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Wyndham, Yarra, Yarra Ranges

Should you require any further detail, please see DHHS website: [DHHS website](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au) or the [Coronavirus Victoria](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) website.

Should you have any further questions please email the [Crisis Management Team](mailto:crisis@unitingchurch.org.au).



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



PERMITTED WORKER PERMITS

Who needs a Permitted Worker Permit?

Anyone who works, whether paid (staff) or unpaid (volunteers), doing any type of permitted work at any workplace other than from their own home is required to have a Permitted Worker Permit and to carry that permit with them at all times whilst working. Students attending face-to-face adult education which cannot be undertaken remotely are also required to carry a permitted worker permit.

How is “permitted” work defined?

The Government’s Coronavirus website has a comprehensive list of permitted workers. This can be found at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/authorised-provider-and-authorised-worker-list-0

To assist, on the next page we have shortlisted the most common worker types relevant to the church.

How do I apply for a Permit?

You can download the Permitted Worker Permit Template UCA 2021 from Synod’s website at <https://victas.uca.org.au/all-you-need-to-know-answers-to-your-frequently-asked-questions>.

Once you have downloaded this word doc you need only complete the following sections (look for the blue highlight):

P1: In the Employer section:

Trading name [If different to company name]	Eg: St Davis Uniting Church
Permitted industry/activity	Eg: Religion

P1: In the Employee section:

Your full name, Your date of birth, and your residential address.

Permitted Role for on-site work (See Authorised Workers list)	You can click on See Authorised Workers list to see the full list. Eg: Faith leader broadcasting services & ceremonies
Employee work location [If different to company address]	Eg: St Davis Uniting Church, 143 Disciple Lane, St Davis.

P1: Signing the form

To assist Synod staff with processing these forms, please submit them as a Word document. If you have an electronic signature, you may add this to your application before it is submitted. Otherwise, please submit the form to Synod UNSIGNED.

If you do submit the form unsigned, you will need to print and sign the form when it has been authorised by the Associate General Secretary and returned to you.

P2: Hours of Work

If you must work from the office for recurring hours each week, you need only complete Table 1, by indicating your usual work times for each day of the week.

If you work only occasionally or varying hours, you will need to complete Table 2, showing up to 6 work weeks.

Where do we send completed Permit applications?

Completed applications must be sent to CrisisManagement@victas.uca.org.au.

Synod’s Crisis Management Team is asking that every workplace co-ordinate this with all staff and volunteers at that workplace, so that all applications are gathered for that workplace, and submitted to Synod in one or two emails.

What happens next?

Synod’s Crisis Management Team will review the application. If it meets the Permitted worker criteria, it will be approved by the Associate General Secretary and returned to you via email.

How long does it take to get approval and what happens while I’m waiting?

Permits will be approved and returned as quickly as is humanly possible, but this may take a little longer initially due to the expected number of applications received. Please be patient.

Meanwhile, if you were issued with a Permitted Worker Permit in 2020 you should carry this until your 2021 permit arrives. If you were not issued with a Permitted Worker Permit in 2020 you cannot attend the workplace after 11.59pm Tuesday August 17 until you receive your 2021 Permit.

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What happens if I don't get a valid Permitted Worker Permit?

There are substantial fines for leaving home for work purposes without having a valid Permit, or for completing the form with false or misleading information. Penalties are up to \$21,808.80 for individuals or up to \$109,044 for bodies corporate/ organisations.

EXAMPLES OF COMMON CHURCH-RELATED PERMITTED WORK ACTIVITIES include:

- ▶ **faith leaders broadcasting services and ceremonies at places of worship, with the minimum number of people required for the broadcast to occur (no more than 5 people) and it must be the same people each time;**
- ▶ **funerary or mortuary services or related activities;**
- ▶ **marriage celebrant only if one or both of the two persons being married are at the end of life, or will be deported from Australia unless the marriage takes place;**
- ▶ **organisations that provide urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person, animal or premises;**
- ▶ **care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, family violence, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition or other essential support services; eg Family violence and sexual assault services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Agencies carrying out essential relief activities, including Neighbourhood Houses.**
- ▶ **administrative services provided by an employer to enable its employees to work from home; eg Payroll and IT services.**

