



Building & Construction Industry COVID-19 Update Friday 23rd July 2021

Update on Positive Cases and Outbreaks

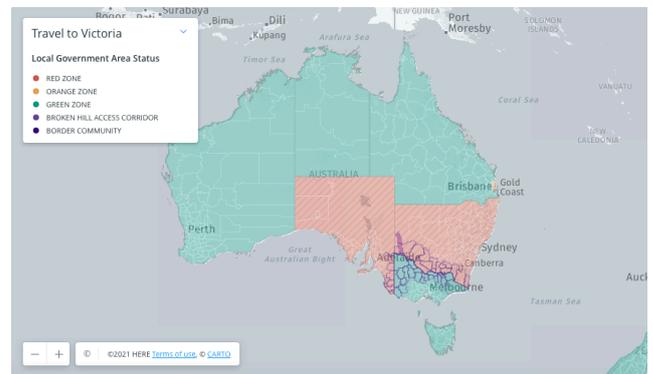
There were 14 new locally acquired positive cases reported in Victoria yesterday and 26 on Wednesday, now 160 active cases, with 5 persons in hospital, one in ICU all linked to the current outbreak stemming from NSW. Our health officials are 'cautiously optimistic'. Positive cases hit 124 on Wednesday in NSW with up to 70 of those new cases moving about in the community for part of their infectious period – prompting an expectation that numbers in that state will only increase in today's numbers and spread to ever more LGAs and regions.

Following the closure of the border with NSW this week by Victoria, South Australia has imposed travel restrictions to NSW and Queensland has now closed its border with NSW.

Travel Permits

All of South Australia is now a Red Travel Zone. The government has paused Red Zone travel permits from NSW for a two week period. A travel permit will now only be granted for AUTHORISED WORKERS and on compassionate grounds.

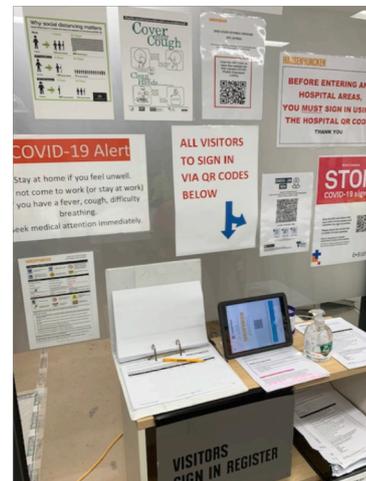
There are still Orange zones for Greater Brisbane and Sunshine Coast, but not the Gold Coast – but that is academic because we can't travel anywhere interstate yet!



Service Vic QR Codes and Site Entry Declarations

It is a requirement now that the Service QR Code is installed by all businesses. QR Codes are essential for quick contact tracing as they 'talk' directly to the Department of Health contact tracers. Each site must also have their own contact tracing systems, preferably digital, with an ability to very quickly download information to hand to the Dept Health in the event of a positive case.

I am seeing 100 percent compliance with this requirement on site visits, exemplified by the site entrance yesterday at Hansen Yuncken's Eye and Ear Hospital site (see picture at right).



Face Masks – its not on if they're not on!

To clarify the current requirement for wearing face masks – it is simple, they must be worn at work both indoors and outdoors unless you are exempted.

The obvious exception is when you are actually eating or drinking.

Our Industry COVID-19 Guidelines also refer to a higher level of face mask, N95/P2 which is used in Health Care settings. It is not mandatory to use N95/P2 masks as all of the masks pictured below are approved for use by the Department of Health in our industry. We will not allow snoods.



The next Revision of the Industry COVID-19 Guidelines will include the following amended clause:

3.11.4 The term face mask includes both cloth masks and single use face masks (commonly known as surgical masks). All Department of Health approved face masks can be used to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID -19) and this currently includes N95/ P2/KN95 face masks.

Gold Standard Sites



Pictured at left is Nick Grady from BUILT at their Flinders St refurbishment of the former Police precinct, displaying the Gold Standard shield.

Pictured below are the happy site managers and COVID Marshal at Hansen Yuncken's Eye and Ear Hospital project in East Melbourne.



At the request of the building industry unions, the Gold Standard questionnaire has been amended and 'beefed up' to accommodate additional COVIDSafe measures in response to the challenges we presently face during the current lockdown and with the Delta variant.

Please contact me directly to participate in this voluntary self assessment of your COVID preparedness. I'll attach the questionnaire to the covering email.

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(News and information in this Update is obtained from a variety of sources, including government websites, newspapers the Herald Sun, Australian, Guardian & online The News Daily. Any commentary is mine alone)