



Victoria coronavirus outbreak:

What are the new rules and do they apply to me?

The Victorian premier, Daniel Andrews, announced on 7 July that metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell shire would move back to level three restrictions for at least six weeks, following a massive surge in community transmission of coronavirus cases, including an outbreak in a Melbourne public housing high-rise block.

Under the provisions there are only four reasons you can leave your house:

- for work or school
- for care or care giving
- for daily exercise
- for food and other essentials.

You cannot exercise outside the lockdown zone - so no travelling

You cannot leave your primary place of residence for a holiday home outside the lockdown zone. Likewise, you can only travel into these areas for work you have to do in person, or to provide or receive care.

Businesses and facilities in Greater Melbourne that have been able to reopen, such as beauty parlours, gyms, libraries and swimming pools – must close again. Cafes and restaurants will be allowed to open only for takeaway and delivery.

You can gather with your household, or have up to two guests in your home.

If you have a partner who lives in the lockdown zone, they can be one of those two guests.

Schools will return as normal for years 11, 12 and VCE, as well as for students in special schools, but all other students will have an extra week of holidays.

Public housing residents living in nine tower block estates in the Melbourne suburbs of Flemington and North Melbourne, which were placed into a five-day "hard lockdown" on 4 July, will be subject to the same rules as the rest of the city once testing has been completed.

Residents in these blocks will not be allowed to leave their units under almost any circumstances for at least five days. The only exceptions are if a person is granted express permission by authorities to receive care at a medical facility, or to leave their home for compassionate reasons or in an emergency. Residents are also not allowed to have any visitors.

Andrews said police would be patrolling communities, giving out on-the-spot fines to those outside their home for anything other than the permitted reasons.

For the first time in a century, the NSW-Victorian border has been closed from 7 July to help contain the outbreak. NSW Police will be patrolling the border. A permit system will be established to allow cross-border travel if required, particularly in twin towns such as Albury-Wodonga.

