

Department of Health and Human Services: Stage 3 and 4 restrictions

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1. Key messages

- Restrictions are changing to slow the spread of coronavirus.
- Today's webinar has been arranged to provide you with immediate information on the new restrictions that have been announced.
- We won't have all the answers to your questions today. We will capture all questions and come back to you quickly with responses this week.
- There will be further announcements made over this week that we will provide further advice to you on.
- While some activities are still allowable, it is important we all rethink the need for community activities and leaving home at this time unless absolutely essential.

2. Stay at Home Directions- Stage 4

Stage 4 - Stay at Home Directions for the Melbourne area provides four reasons for leaving home:

- to shop for food and essential goods or services (must be within 5 km of their premises)
- to provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
- to exercise (must be within 5 km of their premises and for one hour a day)
- for work or study, if you can't do it from home

Essential Services are permitted to continue

- These are disability supports that are **essential to a person's health, safety, behaviour and wellbeing**
- essential services may be provided in-home, in a facility or in the community (in limited circumstances) and include:
 - Residential services, including STAA
 - In-home support
 - Behaviour support services
 - Community support within one of the four reasons listed above
 - Centre based services- where support is essential to the person or the person's family
 - Aids and Equipment / Assistive Technology - where essential
- A person can be supported by more than one support worker when leaving home for one of the four reasons

NOTE: in all circumstances services should be provided remotely where possible

3. Stay at Home Directions- Stage 4

Face masks

- All disability support workers must wear a face mask regardless of where they work in Victoria- this is a requirement for both Stage 3 and Stage 4 restrictions

Travel

- Disability support workers may travel into restricted areas to provide essential disability services
- A person may travel more than 5 km to access an essential support, if this is necessary

Exercise & Restricted Activities

- Under stage 4 restrictions exercise is restricted to one hour a day
- A person may only exercise with one other person (no household groups)- as above the person can have two support workers.
- Recreational activities are not able to be undertaken; for example, golf, fishing
- Other restricted activities:
 - include indoor physical recreation and sport
 - outdoor sport and recreation
 - play centre or publicly accessible playground
 - skatepark
 - outdoor communal gym equipment
 - entertainment facilities.

4. Stay at Home Directions - Stage 3

Regional Areas

- Stay at Home Directions- Stage 3 commence in regional areas at 11:59pm on 5 August.
- These are the same restrictions that have been operating in the Mitchell Shire.
- There are four reasons that you can leave home:
 - Shopping for food or other essential items
 - To provide care giving, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
 - For exercise (applies to outdoor exercise, and with only one other person or members of your household)
 - Work or study, if you cannot work or study from home.Otherwise, you must stay home.

When leaving home you must wear a mask or face covering.

Restricted Activities

- Any support services provided must be consistent with the Restricted Activities (Restricted Areas) Directions
- These Directions include restrictions on indoor and outdoor activities and the numbers of people who may be involved.

NOTE: Further information will be provided when available.

5. Key issues for further work: Workforce capacity and mobilisation

Additional workforce capacity

- Backfill of workers self-isolating
- NDIA has established matching platforms to connect with available workers
- Continuing to work with the NDIA to match available workers to where they are required

Workforce mobilisation

- Great work to-date by providers to reduce worker mobilisation within organisations
- Work with the sector to develop a framework for further minimising workforce mobility
- Need to ensure sufficient availability of workforce to enable continued service delivery

6. Q&A: Centre based day services and day programs

Are day programs still allowed to operate? Should clients still be attending?

- Programs are still able to operate if they comply with physical distancing and other specified requirements.
- Due to the risk of potential community transmission attendance should only occur if considered absolutely essential. It is not considered essential for people who are living in disability residential services.
- The strong message of the Stage 4 restrictions is that everyone should be limiting their movement in the community at this time.

7. Q&A

Q Would it still be allowed for support coordinators to visit participants at home, especially for those that are deaf and don't have the technology to access face time or other means to do meetings online?

- All services should be provided remotely if possible. If a person is unable to communicate via remote access, then face to face visits can occur with appropriate infection control measures.

Q Can families travel to visit their son or daughter in an SDA if it more than 5km away?

- Yes. However, families should consider whether the visit is necessary and can be provided remotely. Under the Care Facilities Directions, only one person may visit per day for a maximum of one hour.

8. Q&A

If a support worker takes a client out for exercise for one hour, can the support worker still do his/her own personal exercise for one hour?

- Yes, the worker is working when he/she takes the client out for exercise. The worker is still able to leave his/her home on the same day for their own exercise.

Can NDIS participants travel beyond 5km to receive essential therapy services?

- Yes if the therapy is essential and cannot be provided closer to home.