

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services

Minister for Equality



Thursday, 17 June 2021

EVERYWHERE, EVERY TIME: CHECKING IN TO PROTECT VICTORIANS

To help our contact tracers keep Victorians safe, all businesses are now required to use the Victorian Government's QR code through the Service Victoria app, and Victorians are required to check in everywhere, every time – even if they're visiting businesses for fewer than 15 minutes.

QR code data is a key source of intelligence for Victoria's contact tracers. The more Victorians that check in, the faster the team can address outbreaks and ease any restrictions in the future.

Businesses, including supermarkets, take-away shops and other retail settings are now required to use the Government's QR code through the Service Victoria app and to ensure their customers check-in upon arrival, even if they visit the venue for only a few minutes.

For customers who are unable to check-in themselves, the Government has also developed a Kiosk Check-in service that allows businesses to check-in their customers via the Service Vic App.

More than 4,800 locations across Victoria have the Kiosk Check-in service up and running with some venues setting up multiple devices. Over 94,000 check-ins have been made using the service in the past week.

Workplaces are also expected to ensure their employees check in via the Service Victoria app when working on site.

Some workplaces are exempt from this for practical reasons including schools, childcare or early childhood services and outside school hours care services in respect of all students, teachers and other school staff. Visitors, contractors or other workers will still be required to check in.

Admitted or residential patients in hospitals or care facilities, ambulance workers, farms in respect of workers or others attending for work purposes and any work undertaken at a residential premise are also exempt.

Workplaces have a further two weeks to comply with the QR Code requirement with an amnesty period running until 1 July.

More than 178,000 Victorian businesses are currently using the free QR code service through the Service Victoria app, with more than 400,000 unique posters on display around shops and communities.

QR codes will also be progressively rolled out across the public transport network, starting with stations and then moving onto rolling stock.

The Victorian Government has today launched a new campaign calling on all Victorians to check-in everywhere, every time. The campaign will be live across TV, radio, print, social, digital and out-of-home media, and will be translated and tailored to culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

By the end of this week, the campaign will be brought to life with a street team delivering on-the-ground engagement with businesses.

The campaign will support businesses who have recently been mandated to check their customers in with the help they need to set up QR Codes and discuss how they can make it easier for people to check-in and be COVID-Safe.

Some of the targeted areas for this work include: Chapel Street, Springvale Road, Victoria, Street, Sydney Road and regional centres such as Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Shepparton.

For more information please visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Failure to comply with Victoria's electronic record keeping requirements can result in an on-the-spot fine of \$1,652.

For more information on record keeping visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qr-codes-and-digital-record-keeping-contact-tracing.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Martin Foley

"We appreciate the time and effort that businesses of all sizes across Victoria have put into implementing QR codes, and we thank for providing a COVIDSafe environment for their workers and their customers."

"We ask Victorians to continue to be kind to staff as they ask you to check-in at your local shop, supermarket and other venues. Checking in everywhere, every time is the way to play your part in beating this virus."

Quote attributable to Minister for Government Services Danny Pearson

"The need for fast and accurate contact information about anyone who has visited a COVID-19 public exposure site is crucial in the fight against COVID-19. It protects you and your community by helping us to identify possible links between positive cases more quickly."