

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Thursday, 23 September 2021

PATHWAY FOR VACCINATED VICTORIANS TO COME BACK HOME

With Victoria moving towards its vaccination targets at a rapid pace, parts of the state's domestic travel permit system will be modified to allow Victorians in Greater Sydney and the ACT to come back home.

Under current rules, Victorians in Extreme Risk Zones can't return home unless they obtain an exemption, have another valid permit (such as for specified workers) or are exempted for limited reasons.

As part of the changes advised by the Chief Health Officer, which will come into place from 30 September, Victorians in an Extreme Risk Zone will be eligible to return home to Victoria if they are fully vaccinated.

They must test negative 72 hours before their departure, quarantine at home for 14 days upon arrival, and get tested again at the start and the end of their quarantine period. The current Extreme Risk Zone rules will remain for Victorians who aren't fully vaccinated. Those who are not currently fully vaccinated can still apply for an exemption to enter Victoria under the existing limited criteria.

To ensure people from extreme risk zones are meeting their quarantine obligations, Authorised Officers will conduct at-home spot checks on Victorians quarantining.

Vaccinated permit holders returning to Victoria will be required to attest their vaccination status on their application and may be asked to provide proof of vaccination when requested by an Authorised Officer.

They will face fines if they provide false or misleading information. They'll also have to carry proof of their vaccination status so it can be checked at airports, seaports or borders.

Service Victoria is developing a solution for Victorians to show their vaccine certificate and vaccination status in the Service Victoria app. They are also looking at how this can be linked to an individual's Victorian travel permit application.

Victorians can currently prove their vaccination status by downloading their vaccine certificate from MyGov.

Current border permit rules still apply until these changes come into place at the end of this month. For more information about the system, visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-travel-permit-system

Quotes attributable to Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews

"This change will allow Victorians to return home from Extreme Risk Zones – but you have to be vaccinated."

"Given our increasingly high vaccination rates and the direction we're headed in the roadmap, this is a safe and appropriate decision and it's made on public health advice."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Martin Foley

"Our border permits have stopped many further cases, outbreaks and incursions and as we move towards a managed easing of restrictions, we can safely allow Victorians in Greater Sydney and the ACT to come back home."

"We thank all Victorians who have gotten vaccinated and we encourage all Victorians in Greater Sydney and the ACT to get the jab so they can return home under changes to our domestic travel permit system."

For more information call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 or visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au.