

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Wednesday, 6 April 2022

PANDEMIC DECLARATION EXTENDED TO PROTECT VICTORIANS

As part of Victoria's continued response to the coronavirus pandemic, Premier Daniel Andrews has extended the pandemic declaration to apply to the state of Victoria from 11.59pm Tuesday 12 April for three months.

The declaration was made under section 165AE of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 after consultation with and consideration of advice from the Minister for Health and Acting Chief Health Officer.

In making the declaration the Premier was satisfied on reasonable grounds there remains a serious risk to public health throughout Victoria due to the coronavirus disease, including recent increases in case numbers and the anticipated BA.2 wave.

This risk requires continued public health and other protective measures to reduce the risk of transmission and hospitalisation.

Over 94 per cent of Victorians over 12 years have received two vaccine doses against coronavirus and over 66 per cent of Victorians over 18 years who have received a third dose.

Continuing to provide access to drive up the rate of third dose vaccinations remains a public health priority - a third dose significantly reduces your chances of getting COVID-19, passing it on to others or going to hospital.

The new extension will expire at 11.59pm, 12 July 2022 and subsequent extensions can last for up to three months.

A pandemic declaration gives the Minister for Health the authority to make pandemic orders he considers reasonably necessary to protect public health after considering the Chief Health Officer's advice and other relevant factors, including social and economic factors.

After the first extension to the pandemic declaration the Independent Pandemic Management Advisory Committee of experts and community representatives was formed to advise on pandemic response and management.

The Statement of Reasons, and the advice of the CHO and the Minister for Health will be tabled in Parliament.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"This extension enables us to keep modest and sensible settings in place to reduce transmission and hospitalisation – that means more support for health workers and limiting its impact on our community."

"We don't want rules on any longer than they need to be – we'll continue to follow the advice to protect what we've built while protecting our community."