



# Building & Construction Industry

## COVID-19 Update Wednesday 27th October 2021

### Update on Positive Cases and Outbreaks

As Victoria races towards the 80% double vaccinated milestone, COVID Normal settings commence this coming Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. We are now in an unprecedented time of persistently high community positive cases, but a lower risk environment for the vaccinated population.

Date Reported	Positive Cases	Active Cases	First Vax %	Second Vax %
Today 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	1534	24,164	%	%
26th October	1499	24,715	90.8	75.9

As of last Friday, the Building and Construction Industry was able to return to 100% capacity for all sectors of the industry – Large Scale, Small Scale (including in occupied premises) and Early Stage Land Developments. New Public Health Directions came into force last week and have now been clarified to allow COVID Marshals to attend multiple small scale building sites – note that large scale sites must still have dedicated and trained COVID Marshal(s).

### New Contact Tracing and Quarantine Guidance

Over the weekend and due to high vaccination rates, the Department of Health released new Guidance for Contact Tracing and Case Management of positive cases. Businesses can now use a risk based approach which classifies workplace contacts according to a risk matrix (attached to the covering email).

This matrix takes into account the duration of contact with the positive case, whether face masks were being worn and vaccination status. IMPORTANTLY, employers can now form their own assessments of who is either a CLOSE CONTACT or LOW RISK. In our industry's environment of mandatory vaccination and wearing face masks, most contacts would now be classified as LOW RISK and therefore only required to monitor themselves for any COVID symptoms.

There will still be circumstances where contact with the positive case will be deemed to be CLOSE CONTACT (eg face to face indoors or prolonged in small working conditions) and in the circumstances where the case is not a household member and the contact is double vaccinated, the quarantine period is reduced to 7 days with a negative COVID test on days 1 and 6.

These are fundamentally new and welcome rules to substantially reduce the impact of a positive case on a building or construction site. Please read the new matrix attached and by all means, call me for assistance in managing these new rules in the event of a positive case on your site.

**Michael Paynter**

**Industry Liaison Officer Building and Construction Industry**  
[mpaynter@peregrineindustrial.com.au](mailto:mpaynter@peregrineindustrial.com.au) Ph 0418 268 555