



Building & Construction Industry

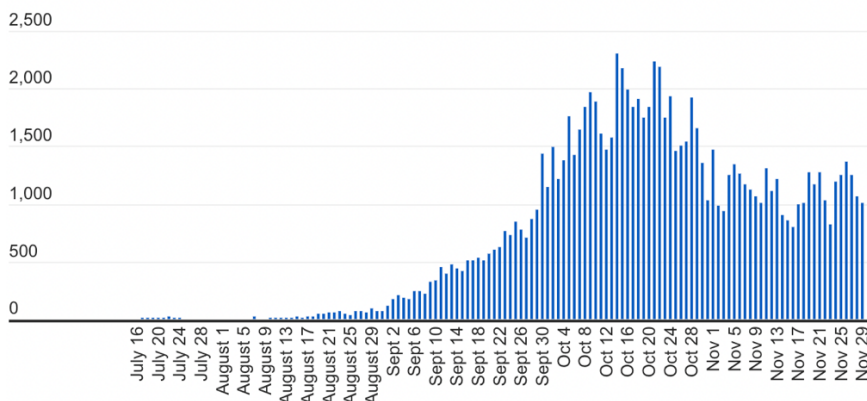
COVID-19 Update 29th November 2021

Update on Positive Cases and Outbreaks

Since my last Update, Victoria reached the 90% double dose vaccination target on 24 November and accordingly we are now in Phase D of the National Plan with significant easing of community restrictions. Yet community positive cases are remaining stubbornly high, with well over 1000 cases reported per day for the last week.

Victoria's locally-acquired Covid-19 cases

Daily numbers are for new cases in the 24 hours to midnight the previous day.

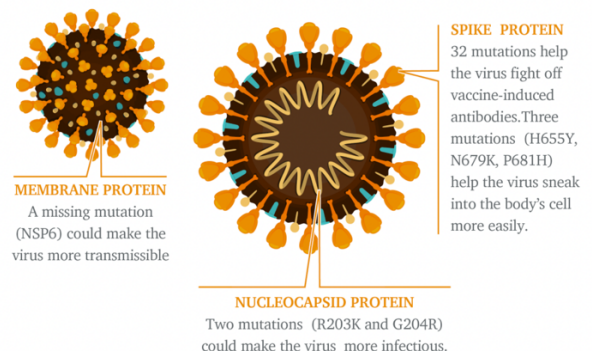


Unfortunately, one of our most diligent COVID-19 Guidelines head contractor has had an outbreak of 15 cases at its site in Docklands. Otherwise, positive cases in our industry have slowed markedly

And now the latest – a new ‘variant of concern’ called OMICRON has appeared in Australia (3 confirmed cases as of today) originating from some South African countries. This has sparked a very quick response from various governments to carefully quarantine those cases and restrict access from those countries. What do we know about Omicron? Here are some reported commentaries:

- Close contacts of this strain will be required to isolate for 14 days, irrespective of vaccination status
- Early studies suggest that this strain will be more infectious and may be less susceptible to the current coronavirus vaccines

WHY THE NEW COVID VARIANT HAS EXPERTS WORRIED



- Common symptoms include exhaustion, aches and pains, sore throat and dry cough

Revision 16 Industry COVID-19 Guidelines and Summary

Workplace Directions #57 were issued at 6pm 25 November and apply until midnight 15 December 2021. Accordingly, the Industry COVID-19 Guidelines have been updated to Revision 16 and were issued on 26 November. Some industry practitioners have asked me for a note of the major changes, but there were few – notably the removal of density quotients in crib and meeting rooms. However as previously reported, there is still a requirement under a COVIDSafe Plan to have most of the Guidelines' recommendations in place eg record keeping, cleaning and hygiene regimes, physical distancing measures and others to mitigate risk.

My best advice is to stay with best practice measures as outlined in Revision 16 of the Industry COVID-19 Guidelines. To assist further, the Guidelines Drafting Group has prepared a simple Summary Document which can easily be laminated and displayed at site and office locations. See the Summary attached to covering email.

Positive COVID-19 cases notified to ILO- 2021

| | | | | |
|-----|--------|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 193 | 17 Nov | LU SIMON | Escala Apartments | LU SIMON Foreman tested positive |
| 194 | 20 Nov | | | ACTON ELECTRICAL Electrician |
| 195 | 20 Nov | | | Electrical Worker with PHOENIX FIRE |
| 196 | 20 Nov | | | Formworker with FORMWORK ENG. |
| 197 | 21 Nov | | | 2 nd Electrician ACTON ELECTRICAL |
| 198 | 22 Nov | | | Labourer with LU SIMON tested positive |
| 199 | 22 Nov | | | Lift driver with LU SIMON |
| 200 | 22 Nov | | | Employee of MC LABOUR HIRE |
| 201 | 22 Nov | | | Carpenter with CASELLO tested positive |
| 202 | 23 Nov | | | Façade worker with JMC Facades |
| 203 | 23 Nov | | | Plumber with BP Plumbing |
| 204 | 24 Nov | | | Abseiler with VERTICAL ACCESS |
| 205 | 25 Nov | | | Worker with EPSILON tested positive |
| 206 | 25 Nov | | | Fire services security employee |
| 207 | 26 Nov | | | LU Simon employee tested positive |
| 208 | 22 Nov | MULTIPLEX | CRNM (Quarantine) | Electrician with STOWE tested positive |

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