|  |
| --- |
| What all Crown land managers need to know and must do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) |

This advice is current at 1 July 2020 and may change.

|  |
| --- |
|  **Please remember:*** If you choose to travel outside your home, please do so responsibly.
* Take responsibility for your own hygiene, bring your own hand sanitiser, cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing and be mindful of others.
* Keep 1.5 metres away from people you don’t live with.
* You should stay home if you are unwell.
* If you have symptoms of coronavirus you should [get tested](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19).
 |

The following advice is for public land managers managing public land that is NOT within the [ten restricted postcodes](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/new-restrictions-melbournes-hot-zones-covid-19) in northern and western Melbourne.

Specific guidance for these areas about use and management of public land can be found on the [DELWP website](https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/coronaviruspubliclanduse/camping-and-caravanning-on-public-land).

What has changed?

* Further changes to restrictions for sport and recreation.
* Shared facilities such as showers, laundries and kitchens at campgrounds can open.
* You can gather in groups of up to 10 people in public places. Multiple groups of 10 people should not gather close by.
* From 11:59pm on 1 July 2020, specific restrictions are in place for 10 Melbourne postcodes.
* Restaurants, pubs, auction halls, community halls, libraries, museums and places of worship remain at a maximum of 20 people in any one space.
* All changes to restrictions and the proposed dates are subject to the advice of Victoria’s Chief Health Officer.

What are the 10 restricted postcodes?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Postcode** | **Suburbs** |
| 3012 | Brooklyn, Kingsville, Maidstone, Tottenham, West Footscray  |
| 3021 | Albanvale, Kealba, Kings Park, St Albans  |
| 3032 | Ascot Vale, Highpoint City, Maribyrnong, Travancore  |
| 3038 | Keilor Downs, Keilor Lodge, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens  |
| 3042 | Airport West, Keilor Park, Niddrie  |
| 3046 | Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park  |
| 3047 | Broadmeadows, Dallas , Jacana  |
| 3055 | Brunswick south, Brunswick west, Moonee vale, Moreland west  |
| 3060 | Fawkner  |
| 3064 | Craigieburn, Donnybrook, Mickelham, Roxburgh Park, Kalkallo  |

 If you live in one of these areas, there are only four reasons to leave your home:

* Shopping for food or other essential items
* To provide care giving for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
* For exercise (outdoor exercise only, with only one other person or members of your household)
* Work or study, if you cannot work or study from home.

Are playgrounds, outdoor gyms and skateparks outside those postcodes open?

Yes, outdoor play equipment, including playgrounds, outside gyms and skate parks are now open.

There is no limit on the number of people that can use these facilities at any one time. People should not gather in groups of more than 10 and should stay 1.5 metres apart from others where possible. Take responsibility for your own hygiene, bring your own hand sanitiser, cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing and be mindful of

What are the restrictions on community sport and training outside those postcodes?

Indoor sports centres and venues can open with up to 20 people per space, with a limit of up to 10 people per group/activity at any one time for those aged over 18 years old.

A staggered approach to the return of community sport will begin as follows:

* Resumption of full-contact training and competition for people 18 years and under
* Resumption of non-contact competition for people aged over 18 years (indoors and outdoors)
* Spectators to abide by public gathering restrictions of 10 in open outdoor venues.
* If indoors, must comply with restrictions on indoor sports and physical recreation venues, no spectators allowed – just those necessary for the competition or training and to support the participants (e.g. supervising parents).

Changing rooms and showers can open for sporting and recreational facilities, including swimming pools. The limit on 3 per lane in swimming pools will no longer apply.

Operators are required to keep records of all people (both staff and patrons) who stay for more than 15 minutes.

Further information can be found on Sport and Recreation Victoria’s [Return to Play](https://sport.vic.gov.au/our-work/return-to-play) website.

Do I need to close off access to buildings on recreation reserves outside those postcodes?

Halls and buildings on public land may be used for the purpose of a community facility:

* to host an essential public support service
* to support small groups if they:
	+ involves less than 20 members of the public and allows for 4 square meters per person in the undivided indoor space; and
	+ complies with the signage, cleaning and records requirements.
* to host a wedding or funeral if it
	+ complies with the requirements of the [Stay Safe Directions (No 2)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/directions-stay-safe-no-2-accessible-covid-19-doc); and
	+ complies with the signage, cleaning and records requirements.
* for the exclusive use of a school at any one time for educational purposes

Can people play golf if they are not in those postcodes?

Yes. People can play golf, for now, in groups of no more than 10 people. They should ensure 1.5 metres can be maintained between themselves and others. They should not share a golf buggy with someone who lives outside their household.

Can people go horse riding if they don’t live in those postcodes?

Yes. People can go horse riding.

Can people visit beaches if they live outside those postcodes?

Yes. Beaches are open and accessible for exercise and recreation.

People can gather in groups of up to 10 people, however multiple groups of 10 people should not gather close by. Visitors need to comply with physical distancing requirements.

Victorians are being asked to be considered and use common sense when it comes to their activities.

Are people allowed to surf or swim on beaches if they are outside those postcodes?

Yes. [Beaches](https://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/media-releases/beaches-and-recreational-boating-closures) are open for exercise and recreation, which includes surfing and swimming. The standard physical distancing requirements and gathering limits apply for water-based activities.

Lifesaving clubs are closed, and Life Saving Victoria beach patrols have stopped for the season.

People can gather in groups of up to 10 people, however multiple groups of 10 people should not gather close by. Physical distancing rules apply at all times.

Can people go camping or stay at a caravan park if they live outside those postcodes?

Yes. People can stay at a [camping ground or caravan park](https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/coronaviruspubliclanduse/camping-and-caravanning-on-public-land).

Shared facilities such as showers, laundries and kitchens at camping and tourist accommodation can open. Physical distancing and gathering directions still apply.

Before leaving home people should undertake a health self-assessment, including temperature check. They should stay home if they are unwell.

Can people visit local parks and gardens if not in those postcodes?

Yes. This includes visiting local parks and gardens for recreation or exercise, including picnics and non-contact sports.

Can people visit parks and forests if they’re not in those postcodes?

Yes. With a small number of exceptions, public land is open. This includes visiting parks and forests for exercise, recreation and camping.

Please note that as some other parks and forests are still closed due to the impact of the bushfires, you should check if the park or forest you intend to visit is open before travelling.

Are Parks Victoria’s parks closed?

Parks that are open are accessible if physical distancing requirements are strictly followed. Check the [Parks Victoria website](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/) for a full list of closures and/or changed conditions before you leave home.

Can people hunt or fish if they live outside those postcodes?

Yes, People can [hunt](https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/coronaviruspubliclanduse/hunting-on-public-land) and fish, as long as they comply with standard licencing requirements, regulations, legislation and policies.

Hunting is allowed within the open season for Stubble Quail, deer (except Hog Deer) and hunting Sambar Deer with hounds. The Hog deer season and duck season is now closed.

Some wetlands may be closed to hunting or have additional restrictions, please check the [GMA website](https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/) before leaving home.

Groups must be limited to no more than 10, and physical distancing of 1.5 metres must be maintained. Hygiene measures still apply – no physical contact outside your household members, regularly wash your hands and obey the 1.5 metre distancing requirements even when outside.

Victorians are being asked to be considered and use common sense when it comes to their activities.

For more information, please visit the [Game Management Authority](https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/) and the [Victorian Fishing Authority](https://vfa.vic.gov.au/) websites.

Should boat ramps outside those postcodes be opened?

Yes. If a boat ramp you manage can be used in a way that ensures physical distancing of 1.5 metres between people is maintained it should be opened.

[Better Boating Victoria](http://www.betterboating.vic.gov.au) has developed signage and further information to assist land managers with reopening boat ramps under eased restrictions.

Can I fossick if I live outside those postcodes?

Yes you can fossick, be sure to observe existing rules and restrictions:

* Earth Resources - [Recreational fossicking](https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/licensing-approvals/recreational-fossicking)
* Parks Victoria - [Gold panning](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/fossicking-prospecting)

Are people still allowed to collect firewood?

No. The Autumn firewood collection season closed on 30 June 2020. Existing rules and restrictions on firewood collection can be found on [Forest Fire Management Victoria](https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/) website.

Are social events and activities allowed for those living outside those postcodes?

Yes, with restrictions. From 11.59pm on 21 June, gatherings of no more than 10 people at public parks are permitted, and people must follow physical distancing requirements.

Are tours and events allowed in parks and forests?

Yes. Activities and events can resume as long as the organisers can ensure groups do not exceed 10 people and physical distancing requirements can be met at all times.

Licensed Tour Operators should contact Parks Victoria’s Activation Agreements Team - Commercial Directorate on 13 19 63 or email for further information.

Is filming and photography allowed in parks and forests?

Yes. Filming and photography is permitted in parks and forests in line with existing guidelines. Please check the following [Parks Victoria](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/events-and-filming-permits/permit-information/filming-and-photography-application-guidelines) and [DELWP](https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/land-management/crown-land-leases-licences-and-permits/filming-and-photography) websites for more details.

Physical distancing, hand hygiene and frequent environmental cleaning & disinfection are to be maintained.

Should public toilets outside those postcodes be open?

Under current directions, public toilets on recreation reserves can remain open where committees of management are able to ensure the cleaning regime of the facilities meet the requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Please refer to the indoor public space guidelines, cleaning and disinfecting tips for non-healthcare settings on the [DHHS website for more information.](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/business-sector-coronavirus-disease-covid-19)

What information should I share with my licence and lease holders?

Restrictions for various businesses are outlined in the [DHHS](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19) website. These may affect activities run by lessees and licence holders. We recommend all public land managers contact their licence and lease holders to inform them of the new directions and remind them of physical distancing requirements and gatherings of no more than 10 people.

Do I need to put up signage in busy areas?

Yes, it is recommended that signage is placed in any areas where people may gather in groups. Signage should specify the gathering and physical distancing requirements. Committees of Management can download updated signage they can use from the [DELWP](https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/committees) website.

Do I need to enforce directions?

No. Public land managers have no authorisation to ensure compliance by community members.

Victoria Police have powers to enforce compliance with all directions issued by the Chief Health Officer and the Deputy Chief Health Officer in accordance with emergency powers arising from declared state of emergency. Please contact Victoria Police on 131444 if you see people breaching the directions.

Can I still conduct works?

Yes. Committees of management can continue to conduct works or have contractors deliver services where necessary to manage the reserves. However, physical distancing rules must be adhered to by all workers. This may change. Please regularly check the [DHHS](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19) website for new Directions from the Chief Health Officer.

Further information

Please contact the DELWP Customer Contact Centre on 136 186, your local DELWP regional office or the [DELWP](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au) website.

|  |
| --- |
| The situation is changing rapidly. Check the Department of Health and Human Services web site regularly for updates at **www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au** |

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

delwp.vic.gov.au