

## CRICKET VICTORIA COVID-19 UPDATE (September 1, 2021)

### Lockdown extension:

**Melbourne:** Until date TBC (*some easing likely ~Sept. 23*)

**Regional:** Some eased restrictions likely to be announced in 3-7 days

The key aspects from the lockdown extension announcement today by the Victorian Premier are:

- **Reaching vaccination levels will be critical to playing cricket this summer**  
The earlier that Victoria reaches 70% & 80% single & double dose vaccination levels, the earlier that State Government imposed restrictions will be eased to allow community cricket to return.
- **Season start dates will likely need to be delayed – especially in Metro Melbourne**  
The Premier and Chief Health Officer have noted in the press conference today that when the current lockdown restrictions are eased, the distance that Melbournians can travel is only likely to lift from 5km to 10km (regionally travel may be eased further). It is likely that 'normal' training sessions will not be possible at that stage. Associations will therefore need to re-consider season start dates noting various factors:
  - The restrictions in place at the time of locking in the fixture (e.g. is club training back to near 'normal'?);
  - Adequate time for bowling loads in players to reduce injury likelihoods;
  - Ground & wicket preparations / access – therefore council / school approval is critical;
  - Starting asap to maximise the number of matches played should a future outbreak cause a future return to restrictions that prevent cricket from being played for one or more weeks;
  - Adequate time to communicate widely throughout the club, player, parent network to advise about the season fixture for planning by all;
  - Whether plan B/C scenarios are enacted – which may see Associations return to more (or solely) one day cricket this season &/or thinking creatively (where possible) about increasing mid-week matches to replace training sessions – especially for juniors;
  - The plans of local winter code Associations / Leagues. Whilst unlikely to resume for September (esp. in Melbourne), we note the following AFL Victoria statements re: [Community & the VFL](#); &
  - Ensure agreement is reached early re: the minimum required rounds before finals are held (just in case).

Subject to the several points above (& any other local matters), Associations may consider:

- Junior seasons to commence 1-2 weeks after 'near normal' training can return &
- Senior seasons to commence 2-3 weeks after 'near normal' training can return

N.B.: The Vic Premier Cricket competition will not be starting before the earliest of October 23/24.

### Promotion of 'at home' activities for juniors – all free resources

Keeping kids active – especially during lockdowns – remains important for a range of reasons. Cricket clubs and parents of junior cricketers are encouraged to play an active role by considering use of the following resources:

#### ["Anywhere Blast"](#)

Anywhere Blast is a great at-home program perfect for kids to practise their skills before their Woolworths Cricket Blast program begins!

#### [Cricket Aust. coach resources](#)

The CA coaching website and free App have fantastic resources incl. videos & tips for juniors, coaches and parents to consider during & after lockdown.



### Club training remains banned

Some clubs may be keen to arrange informal (or even formal) training 'workarounds' before the end of lockdown. Cricket Victoria fully supports the State Government position that cricket clubs should actively discourage such 'training' sessions – they are not allowed under current restrictions.

### Cricket Nets

Cricket nets can be re-opened from 11.59pm on Thurs Sept 2 (subject to council support) and used by members of the community – noting applicable travel, time & other restrictions. Training sessions remain off-limits though.

## Turf wicket preparations

In line with the [August 19 CV COVID-19 update](#) (that was applicable at the time to just Metro Melbourne), & the recently updated [FAQ on the CV website](#) (see "Training Protocols" section) turf wicket maintenance / repairs is currently deemed a permitted activity. This now also applies to Regional Victoria based on the current wording of 'authorised providers' on the State Government [Coronavirus website](#).

N.B.: Follow the detailed guidance provided within the FAQ re: permission / worker permit.

## Association / LGA "COVID-19 update" webinar / conversation: Tues Sept 7

Associations & LGA's should stay tuned for an invite to hear from and talk to CV about planning for the season ahead. This will be held via Microsoft Teams as follows: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 5pm – 6pm.

### Summary of current restrictions table

<i>Community cricket COVID-19 guide</i>  <i>Check the Vic Government website for more detailed &amp; updated information</i>  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/</a>	<b>METRO</b> <b>CURRENT:</b> <b>"LOCKDOWN"</b> <b>Thurs 5 Aug (8pm)</b>  <b>onwards</b> <i>info as at 1/9/21</i>	<b>REGIONAL</b> <b>CURRENT:</b> <b>"LOCKDOWN"</b> <b>Sat 21 Aug (1pm)</b>  <b>onwards</b> <i>info as at 1/9/21</i>	<b>PREVIOUS:</b> <b>STATEWIDE</b> <b>"EASED RESTRICTIONS"</b> <b>28 JULY - 5 AUGUST (8pm)</b>	<b>PREVIOUS:</b> <b>REGIONAL</b> <b>"EASED RESTRICTIONS"</b> <b>Mon 9 Aug (11.59pm) - Sat 21 Aug (1.00pm)</b> <i>info as at 21/8/21</i>
	<b>METROPOLITAN</b>	<b>REGIONAL</b>	<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>REGIONAL</b>
<b>MATCHES</b>				
Playing junior matches (incl WWCB)?	X	X	✓	✓
Playing senior matches?	X	X	✓	✓
Number of players per team	N/A	N/A	Normal team size (e.g. 11 v 11)	Normal team size (e.g. 11 v 11)
Sanitiser frequency?	N/A	N/A	Max 20 overs	Max 20 overs
Masks required?	N/A	N/A	YES - except while batting, bowling, fielding	YES - except while batting, bowling, fielding
Are spectators allowed?	N/A	N/A	No. Only players, coaches, scorers, umpires, parents/guardians.	No. Only players, coaches, scorers, umpires, parents/guardians.
Are Indoor Cricket matches allowed?	N/A	N/A	Yes - subject to 1:4sqm (max of 100 'per space')	Yes - subject to 1:4sqm (max of 100 'per space')
QR code check-ins required & monitored?	N/A	N/A	✓	✓
<b>TRAINING</b>				
Ovals & nets open for any form of training?	X	X	✓	✓
<b>Nets open for any public use?</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Training group size?	N/A	N/A	10 per group	Normal training group sizes. Small groups are recommended.
Can equipment (including balls) be shared?	N/A	N/A	After sanitisation	After sanitisation
Maximum number of people allowed to train?	N/A	N/A	1:4sqm or Max. 300 ppl	1:4sqm or Max. 300 ppl
Distance between training groups?	N/A	N/A	Reasonable distance. Keep seperated at all times.	Reasonable distance. Keep seperated at all times.
Masks required?	N/A	N/A	YES - except while batting, bowling, fielding	YES - except while batting, bowling, fielding
QR code check-ins required & monitored?	N/A	N/A	✓	✓
Is Indoor training allowed?	N/A	N/A	Yes - subject to 1:4sqm (max of 100 'per space')	Yes - subject to 1:4sqm (max of 100 'per space')
<b>FACILITY ACCESS</b>				
Number of people in changerooms?	N/A	N/A	1:4sqm	1:4sqm
Number of people in social rooms?	N/A	N/A	1:4sqm N.B.: No spectators allowed	1:4sqm N.B.: No spectators allowed
<b>Turf wicket preparation?</b>	Yes - subject to written council approval, worker permit & COVID safe practices	Yes - subject to written council approval, worker permit & COVID safe practices	✓	✓
Canteens open for use?	N/A	N/A	✓	✓
Masks required?	N/A	N/A	✓	✓
QR code check-ins required & monitored?	N/A	N/A	✓	✓
<p>N.B.: The above is a summary only. Latest changes highlighted in <b>red text</b> &amp; yellow background. Check the Vic Government Coronavirus website for the latest information. If unsure, check with your council / venue owner regarding access. Always maintain 1.5m distance, regular hand hygiene &amp; if unwell stay away &amp; get tested</p>				

Please continue to check out the COVID-19 section of the CV website regularly for updates as they come to hand via <https://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/clubs-support/covid-19/>

**Prepared by Paul Milo (Cricket Victoria) – 1/9/2021**