

### **COVID-19 UPDATE #28 – Easing of restrictions in NSW and Victoria**

COVID-19 restrictions will ease from 6pm and 11.59pm Friday, 22 April 2022, for NSW and Victoria respectively.

In [Victoria](#), close contacts will no longer have to quarantine – provided they wear a mask indoors and avoid sensitive settings. They will also need to undertake at least five (5) negative rapid tests over the seven (7) days that would previously have been the self-quarantine period. People are exempt from testing or quarantine for 12 weeks if they've had COVID-19 – up from eight (8) weeks.

For the waste and resource recovery sector:

- The changes are in line with current arrangements in place for the sector under the Exemption of Specific workers – Contacts Conditions and Other Directions (No. 6). Any additional changes to these directions will be communicated when health orders are made available.
- Individuals will be required to notify their workplace contacts, in addition to informing their social contacts. Workplaces won't have to individually identify and notify each potentially exposed worker.
- A number of critical and common-sense settings will be retained, including the essential requirement to isolate for seven (7) days following a COVID-19 diagnosis and existing two (2)-dose and three (3)-dose vaccination mandates for workers.
- All workplaces will still require a COVIDSafe Plan.

Similarly in [NSW](#), close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case will not be required to isolate, provided they comply with NSW Health guidelines, including (but not limited to):

- Wearing a face mask in indoor settings outside the home.
- Undertaking daily RAT tests before coming into close contact with people outside their household where practicable.
- Working from home where practical.
- Notifying their employer/educational facility that they are a close contact, and that they are not required to isolate as long as they comply with the guidelines.

There are no changes for positive cases - the seven (7)-day isolation requirement remains in place for anyone who has recorded a positive RAT or PCR result.

Public health orders requiring key workforces to be vaccinated will be lifted, with vaccine requirements to be based on risk assessments under occupational work health and safety, in line with other jurisdictions.

These changes will mean the critical worker exemptions from isolation rules will no longer be required. However, close contacts will still need to comply with any COVID-19 safety measures that have been put in place in their workplace by employers.