

Guidance for safe return to caravan and camping – coronavirus (COVID-19)

The scope of the advice includes all public land. It includes campsites with no facilities to cabins with ensuites. Also included are caravan parks, formal camping areas (where bookings are required) and remote camp sites (where no sites are provided, or no bookings are required).

It acknowledges the significant variation in the type and level of service provided at camp sites across the state and the experience the user is after – from camping in tents, RVs, campervans to cabins.

Advice for changing restrictions

From 11:59pm on 21 June 2020 outdoor gatherings are limited to 10 people.

Overnight stays can resume under appropriate conditions including:

- no more than 20 guests are permitted in the accommodation facility per group booking, and density quotients and physical distancing are maintained; and
- record-keeping and cleaning requirements are met.

Accommodation can open for tourists, including campgrounds and caravan parks, including where there are shared communal facilities. Communal facilities like kitchens or bathrooms can open.

If you are an accommodation provider, it is recommended that you consider implementing one or more of the following additional requirements for patrons:

- requesting that a patron undertake a symptom self-assessment prior to leaving home, which includes an assessment of whether they have a fever and include a temperature check at home
- providing information about the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and asking guests to disclose whether they are unwell or whether they have been asked to quarantine by the Department of Health and Human Services due to being a close contact of a confirmed case of coronavirus.

Where possible, accommodation providers are encouraged to contact booked guests in the 24 hours prior to their booking and request they conduct a symptom self-assessment before leaving home.

There are exemptions already in place that allow accommodation facilities to operate for the purposes of providing accommodation to:

- a) a person attending the facility in connection with a school camp;
- b) a person whose place of residence is the accommodation facility;
- c) a person who is ordinarily a resident of Victoria but has no permanent place of residence in Victoria;
- d) a person who requires emergency accommodation, including in relation to family violence and other vulnerable groups; or
- e) a person who requires accommodation for work purposes.

Return to caravan and camping plans

This guidance allows each committee of management (CoM) to consider their activities and the environment in which activities take place. CoMs are encouraged to develop a Return to Caravan and Camping Plan. DELWP can provide advice and support to CoMs in the development of these plans, noting that the CoMs are responsible for their development and enforcement.

Plans are a mechanism through which CoMs can:

- Align with the current Stay Safe and Restricted Activity Directions No. 10 issued by the Victorian Chief Health Officer.
- Implement relevant recommendations from the Victorian Government relating to the operation and safety of the facility.

Ensure that activity resumption does not compromise the health of individuals or the community.

Are caravan parks or camping grounds able to open?

Yes. From 11:59pm on 21 June, camping ground or caravan parks can be opened. Communal toilet, bathroom and kitchen facilities can open, and physical distancing and regular cleaning must be implemented.

How many people are allowed in a camping ground?

The restrictions on public gatherings of up to 10 people apply to groups within the park, not the caravan park or camping ground itself. As such, no group bookings of more than 10 should be taken. Campers should maintain a distance 1.5 metres from others and stay home if they feel unwell.

How can safe camping behaviour be encouraged?

Additional safeguards will be established for accommodation, including increased screening to increase the safety of staff and visitors. Patrons are encouraged to undertake a symptom self-assessment prior to leaving home, which includes an assessment of whether they have a fever and include a temperature check at home.

Signs should be placed advising patrons not to enter caravan parks or camping grounds if they are unwell and information provided on physical distancing and hygiene measures.

How do I prevent people from attending when unwell?

If someone is unwell, they should be at home. To avoid guests arriving unwell you can communicate with guests before they travel. Accommodation providers are encouraged to contact booked guests in the 24 hours prior to their booking and request they conduct a symptom self-assessment before leaving home. This should include assessing if they have a fever, ideally by using a thermometer to check their own temperature. Not everyone who has an infection or is infectious will have a fever so the self-assessment should cover all symptoms and whether the person has been identified as a close contact of someone with coronavirus (COVID19). Where there is a check-in process, accommodation providers can ask people whether the self-assessment has been done.

Is remote camping permitted?

Yes.

Is there a time limit on how long people can stay?

Normal time limits apply to camping. As always, we're urging Victorians to use common sense in their activities. It's up to all of us to make this work. Caravan and camping grounds on public land are provided for short stay holiday accommodation and should not be used for long stays.

There are exemptions for certain people in particular circumstances, for instance, where the accommodation is for work purposes, you have nowhere else to stay or you live there permanently.

What are communal facilities?

Communal facilities, other than toilets are those facilities that are shared and available for all people to use.

Are all campgrounds and caravan parks open?

Some public land campgrounds and caravan parks close over winter, and seasonal road closures will restrict access to more remote campgrounds. Please note that as some parks and forests are still closed due to the impact of the bushfires, visitors are encouraged to check if the park or forest they intend to visit is open before travelling.

For more information visit: More to Explore App or PV website.

How far can people travel to go camping?

There is no restriction on the distance people can travel and there are no restrictions on leaving or entering Victoria at this time. If you are going interstate you should familiarise yourself with other restrictions that apply at your destination.

Are the public able to take their caravan/camper trailer/tent/tent trailer/slide or camper/fifth wheeler/campervan?

Yes, they can take their caravan on a holiday in Victoria. When required, sewage must be dumped at approved dump points. The public is advised to check ahead if the campground can accommodate the recreational vehicle.

Is there a direction requiring scheduled cleaning of toilet facilities?

- The Chief Health Officer advises that all reasonable steps be taken to routinely clean touched surfaces accessible to members of the public at least daily, including toilets.
(A)
- In low visitation areas or sites that require considerable travel, this will not be possible. In these situations, existing service schedules may still apply.
- Surfaces accessible to a discreet group are required to be cleaned between groups, such as cleaning and disinfecting a cabin between bookings.
(B)

As they travel, Victorians are reminded to maintain good hygiene, including regularly washing your hands or using sanitiser.

Transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Transmission or spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) occurs more commonly through direct contact with respiratory droplets than through contaminated objects and surfaces.

The risk of catching coronavirus when cleaning is substantially lower than any risk from being face-to-face without appropriate personal protective equipment with a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) who may be coughing or sneezing.

Table 1: Management Actions to assist Land and Facilities Managers to operate caravan and campgrounds under current public health measures.

Category	Control	Management Action/s
Camping	Positioning of other services	<p>Consideration should be given to the placement of tents, caravans and camper trailers within the caravan park/campground, ensuring appropriate distance.</p> <p>Where remote camping can occur, it is the individual campers' responsibility to comply with the CHO about gatherings (up to 10 people), personal hygiene and social distancing requirements.</p>
Environmental	Frequent cleaning and disinfection	<p>Managers of self-contained onsite cabins and caravans must clean them between user/ groups bookings.</p> <p>Cleaning of <u>high use</u> facilities within caravan parks and campgrounds should occur twice daily. Otherwise operators should schedule cleaning commensurate with use and access.</p>
Public space, Outdoor	Gathering limit	<p>. There can be multiple groups in a public space. This applies to groups and activities and remote camping, but each group should remain apart.</p> <p>Caravan Parks and campgrounds can accommodate more than 20 people providing compliance with current restrictions can be maintained.</p> <p>No group bookings of greater than 20 should be accepted. Groups should be separated appropriately from another group in the camping area, to enable physical distancing between the groups.</p>
	Physical distancing between individuals	Visitors should remain 1.5 metres apart and abide by the rules of the facility manager.
Public space, Indoor	Enclosed space limit	Visitors to cabins and caravans must maintain physical distancing from others and comply with density requirements (Restricted Activity Directions No.10) when in public indoor spaces, as well as abiding by the rules of the facility manager.
Public space, all areas	Physical distancing	Patrons should be encouraged to maintain 1.5m physical distancing in all settings by abiding by the rules of the facility manager.
Patron identification		In campsites that require bookings or permits land managers should continue to record the name, phone number or email as per current booking systems.
Signage	Actions to support individuals to modify behaviour	<p>Managers should implement signage (or media or other communications) to support compliance with current restrictions and advice (such as requesting patrons to refrain from attending if they are unwell)</p> <p>Sign templates in Link below. https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/boards-and-governance/committees-of-management#toc_id_2_signage</p>
Staff	Covid safe plan	Workplaces are encouraged to develop a Work Safe plan and share their plan with their staff as appropriate.

		see https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19 and https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/preparing-pandemic-guide-employers
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