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Hello Everyone,

The Victorian government regulations have now been issued for the eased coronavirus restrictions effective from today (June 1).

As I mentioned last week, there are now increased numbers permitted for gatherings. In general, the limit is now 20. For funerals, the limit is 50.

The regulations issued for today also reduce the number of occasions on which contact details (first name and phone number) must be requested.

Churches are no longer required to request contact details of those who:

- Attend for private worship; or
- Attend a support group where confidentiality is typical; or
- Attend for less than 15 minutes

In my view, the second group (where confidentiality is typical) would include celebrations of the sacrament of penance.

I'll attach a copy of the regulations, with the relevant sections highlighted.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

Directions from Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease) in accordance with emergency powers arising from declared state of emergency

Restricted Activity Directions (No 9)

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

(Vic) Section 200

I, Dr Annaliese van Diemen, Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease), consider it reasonably necessary to protect public health to give the following directions pursuant to section 200(1)(d) of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008** (Vic) (**PHW Act**):

1 Preamble

- (1) The purpose of these directions is to restrict the operation of certain businesses and undertakings in order to limit the spread of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (**2019-nCoV**).
- (2) These directions replace the **Restricted Activity Directions (No 8)**, and now permit:
 - (a) up to 20 people to gather for certain activities;
 - (b) limited dine in services for food and drink facilities;
 - (c) accommodation facilities to operate for tourism where there is no use of shared cooking or bathroom facilities;
 - (d) limited operation of swimming pools;
 - (e) limited operation of community facilities;
 - (f) limited operation of beauty and personal care facilities;
 - (g) limited community sport and recreation;
 - (h) limited operation of entertainment facilities; and
 - (i) limited operation of animal facilities.
- (3) These directions must be read together with the **Stay Safe Directions** given on 31 May 2020.

2 Revocation

The **Restricted Activity Directions (No 8)** are revoked at 11:59:00pm on 31 May 2020.

3 Citation

These directions may be referred to as the **Restricted Activity Directions (No 9)**.

3A Restricted activity period

For the purposes of these directions, the **restricted activity period** is the period beginning at 11:59:00pm on 31 May 2020 and ending at 11:59:00pm on 21 June 2020.

4 Definition of density quotient

The **density quotient** limits the **members of the public** that are permitted in a space at any one time to the number calculated by dividing the total publicly accessible space (measured in square metres) by 4 and:

- (a) for an **indoor space** applies to each single undivided space permitted to operate under these directions; and
- (b) for an **outdoor space**, applies to the total space permitted to operate under these directions.

Example:

A: if an indoor space is 8.5 metres long and 4.5 metres wide, its total area is 38.25 square metres. Its density quotient is 9.56, so no more than 9 members of the public would be permitted to be in the indoor space at the same time.

B: if an indoor space is 15 metres long and 10 metres wide, its total area is 150 square metres. Its density quotient is 37.5, however if there is also a 20 person cap on the space, no more than 20 members of the public would be permitted to be in the indoor space at the same time.

Note: the density quotient, also referred to as the '4 metre square rule' is to be calculated by measuring the area which the members of the public can access, such as the table area in a restaurant, but the food preparation area or in a store room.

5 Pubs, bars, clubs, nightclubs and hotels

- (1) A person who owns, controls or operates a **licensed premises** in Victoria must not operate that **premises** during the restricted activity period.
- (2) A **licensed premises** means a business characterised as a pub, bar, club, nightclub or hotel that supplies alcohol under a **general licence**, an **on-premises licence**, a **late night licence** or a **club licence**.
- (3) Despite subclause (1), a person who owns, controls or operates a licensed premises may operate that premises for the purposes of:
 - (a) operating a **bottleshop**;
 - (b) providing food and drink in accordance with clause 10; or
 - (c) providing accommodation in accordance with clause 11.

6 Physical recreational facilities

- (1) A person who owns, controls or operates a **physical recreational facility** in Victoria must not operate that facility during the restricted activity period.

(c) the person complies with the cleaning requirement.

8 Places of worship

- (1) A person who owns, controls or operates a **place of worship** in Victoria may operate that place of worship during the restricted activity period for:
- (a) hosting an essential public support service (whether that service is provided on a voluntary basis or otherwise);
Examples: a food bank, a service for homeless persons.
 - (b) hosting a limited group of members of the public;
Examples: support groups for alcohol and drugs, family violence and parenting.
 - (c) conducting a ceremony (including if the ceremony is to be broadcast, live or otherwise, via electronic means) or permitting private worship; or
 - (d) hosting a wedding or funeral.

Restrictions - limited groups and ceremonies

- (2) A person who operates a place of worship under subclause (1)(b) or (1)(c) must limit the number of members of the public in each indoor space to the lesser of:
- (a) the number permitted by the density quotient; or
 - (b) 20.

Restrictions - weddings and funerals

- (3) A person who operates a place of worship under subclause (1)(d) must not host a wedding or funeral unless that wedding or funeral complies with the requirements of the **Stay Safe Directions**.

Restrictions - signage and cleaning requirements

- (4) A person who owns, operates or controls a place of worship during the restricted activity period must comply with the:
- (a) signage requirement for each:
 - (i) indoor space; and
 - (ii) enclosed outdoor space if hosting a wedding or funeral under subclause (1)(d);
 - (b) cleaning requirement; and
 - (c) records requirement (except in relation to private worship, and in relation to support groups if confidentiality is typically required).

- (a) an open retail facility;
- (b) a community facility operating in accordance with clause 6A;
- (c) a place of worship;
- (d) an open entertainment facility;
- (e) a food and drink facility operating under clause 10(3);
- (f) an accommodation facility operating under clause 11(3);
- (g) a swimming pool operating under clause 12(5); or
- (h) an animal facility operating under clause 13(4);

must during the restricted activity period take all reasonable steps to ensure that:

- (i) frequently touched surfaces accessible to members of the public, including toilets and handrails, are **cleaned** at least twice on any given day;

U) surfaces are cleaned when visibly soiled;

- (k) if an event is to occur, a reasonable period of time has elapsed since the conclusion of any earlier event to allow for cleaning in between the events;

(l) surfaces accessible to a particular group, including the surface of a restaurant table, are cleaned between groups; and

(m) surfaces are cleaned immediately after a spill on the surface.

- (3) To **clean** for the purposes of this direction, a person must wipe the surface with a disinfectant:

- (a) the label of which states a claim by the manufacturer that the disinfectant has anti-viral properties; or
- (b) made by a person according to instructions issued by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Records requirement (records requirement)

- (4) A person who owns, controls or operates:
 - (a) a physical recreation facility in accordance with clause 6(3);
 - (b) a community facility operating in accordance with clause 6A;
 - (c) a place of worship;
 - (d) an open entertainment facility;
 - (e) a hairdressing facility;
 - (f) a beauty and personal care facility;
 - (g) an auction house;
 - (h) a food and drink facility operating under clause 10(3);
 - (i) a swimming pool operating under clause 12(5);

U) an animal facility operating under clause 13(4); or
an estate agent who organises or conducts an auction or inspection under clause 14, must request that each person who attends the facility or venue for longer than 15 minutes in the circumstances listed in the relevant clause provide:

- (k) their first name; and
 - (l) a contact phone number,
- and, if provided by the person, must keep a record of those details for 28 days, together with the following details:
- (m) the date and time at which the person attended the facility or venue; and
 - (n) if there are multiple indoor spaces, the indoor space(s) which the person visited.

Note: the records requirement applies to all persons that attend the facility or venue for longer than 15 minutes, which may include staff, customers, maintenance and delivery workers.

- (5) A person that obtains contact details in accordance with this clause must:
 - (a) use reasonable endeavours to protect the personal information from use or disclosure other than as requested by an authorised officer under the PHW Act; and
 - (b) destroy the information as soon as **reasonably practicable** following 28 days after the visit, unless another statutory requirement permits or requires the personal information to be retained.

16 Employers to require employees work from home

An employer must not permit an employee to perform work at the employer's premises where it is reasonably practicable for the employee to work at the employee's place of residence or another suitable premises which is not the employer's premises.

*Note: clause 6(1) of the **Stay Safe Directions** permits a person to leave the premises where they ordinarily reside to attend work only if it is not reasonably practicable to work from their premises or another suitable premises which is not the employer's premises.*

17 Other definitions

For the purposes of these directions:

- (1) **accommodation facility** has the meaning in clause 11(2);
- (2) **animal facility** has the meaning in clause 13(2);
- (3) **approved betting competition** has the same meaning as in the **Gambling Regulation Act 2003**;
- (4) **approved venue** has the same meaning as in the **Gambling Regulation Act 2003**;