*On 2nd August,* the Australian government announced stage 3 restrictions for all people living in regional Victoria. The stage three restrictions for regional Victoria will come into effect from 11.59pm on Wednesday 5 August and last until at least 13 September.

**When you can leave the house:**

There are four reasons to leave the house:

* shopping for food and essential items
* care and caregiving
* daily exercise
* work and study. But if you can work or study from home, you must. Employers must support you to work from home.

Caregiving includes managing shared custody arrangements, using a babysitter, leaving home to care for animals housed elsewhere, visiting someone in an aged care home, and visiting someone in hospital.

You can leave your house if you are at risk of family violence or to apply for an intervention order, and to attend court or a police station.

You can also leave your house to access medical services. This time around, that explicitly includes leaving your house to give blood. Access to medical services is unrestricted: you can access them anywhere in Victoria.

**Businesses in regional Victoria:**

Businesses in regional Victoria will also return to Stage 3 restrictions.

That means restaurants and cafes can only offer delivery and takeaway. Beauty and personal services will need to close. Entertainment and cultural venues will need to close. Community sport will need to stop.

**Schooling:**

All schools around Victoria will move to remote learning this week beginning Wednesday 5th August. Schools will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of permitted workers. For students who are going to school, teachers will not need to wear a face covering while teaching, but students attending classes will. Both teachers and students will need to wear a mask on the way to and from school.

Specialist schools, Kinders and childcare will remain open in regional areas.

**Wearing Face Coverings:**

As you are aware that people must still wear a mask or covering whenever leaving the house. There are a few exceptions. People with a medical reason are exempt, as are children younger than 12.

**Breaking the rules:**

The Victorian Government has said police will enforce these restrictions. Victoria police can issue on-the-spot fines of up to $1,652 for individuals and up to $9,913 to businesses who don’t follow stage 3 rules. People who do not wear face coverings and do not have a lawful excuse can be fined $200.

We all need to play our part to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). By staying at home and limiting contact with other people, we can help protect ourselves, our families and our communities from coronavirus (COVID-19). These are the major updates and we expect more updates to come soon. Please let me know if you have any questions. I will stay in touch with you regarding any future updates.