

New COVID19 Restrictions for Restaurants and Cafes

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE HEALTH PROTECTION UNIT



Colac Otway
SHIRE

From June 1, restaurants, cafes and other hospitality businesses can resume dine-in service with the following restrictions:

- Up to 20 seated patrons per enclosed space.
- All venues must abide by physical distancing requirements. Limits will be placed on entry to comply with the density requirements allowed within a single space – one customer per four square metres.
- Place tables so that diners are 1.5 metres from a neighbouring table when seated.
- Venues are required to request contact details, first name and phone number, of every customer to assist in rapid contact tracing other safety precautions will also be required, including extra cleaning. Operators must keep a record of those details and the date and time at which the person attended the venue, and the table number at which they were seated. This information must not be used for any other purpose. This information must be stored for at least 28 days and subsequently securely destroyed.
- Staff should not work when unwell.
- Safety precautions, including extra cleaning and mandatory free online COVID-19 training for staff is required. Victorian Government online training will be available from June 1.
- Alcohol is only permitted to be served with meals (a genuine meal, not a snack) patrons cannot visit the establishment for a drink only.
- Staff safety and wellbeing is paramount. Venues should ensure that adequate processes are in place to protect staff.

Hygiene and cleaning

- Venues must display a sign at each public entry that includes information on the maximum number of people that can be present in the space at a single time.
- Hygiene stations (with hand sanitiser) must be placed in prominent places and entrances throughout the venue for staff and patrons. Posters on good hygiene and handwashing practices must also be displayed in prominent positions within the venue.
- Good hygiene practices, such as handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and utensils, and physical distancing are the most effective methods for maintaining health and reducing the risk of transmission – Personal Protective Equipment is not currently recommended as a preventative measure against coronavirus (COVID-19) for hospitality workers or for healthy individuals.
- If gloves are worn as part of routine food preparation, this practice should be continued together with usual food safety requirements.
- Cleaning and sanitising of high-touch surfaces should be done regularly – this includes items on the table, after a customer has left.
- Personal items used in the workplace (such as phones) should be cleaned and sanitised frequently (e.g. by using isopropyl alcohol wipes).
- Workplace amenities including kitchens, lunchrooms, communal areas, change rooms and toilets should also be regularly cleaned.
- Self-service buffet style food service areas, cutlery/glass/water/condiment stations should all be removed. Free drinking water should be provided via table service.

Colac Otway Shire Health Protection Unit
2-6 Rae Street, Colac
Phone: (03) 5232 9429
Email: health@colacotway.vic.gov.au



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Physical distancing

- The density quotient of one person per four square metres does not apply to staff in kitchens that are workplaces, but staff working in the kitchen must practice physical distancing where possible.
- Staff do not need to be included in the capacity limit for a venue. The limit is on the number of patrons only.
- Children and infants are included in the 20 person limit.
- The patron limit does not include customers who are visiting the venue to order or collect take-away.

Take-away and home delivery services

- Patrons collecting take-away food from the premises must continue to observe physical distancing by maintaining a distance of 1.5 metres to another person.
- Staff providing a home delivery food service are not permitted to enter the home of the customer, and a distance of at least 1.5 metres must be maintained, even when taking payment and handing over the meal. Where possible, ask for prepayment or use contactless payment.

From June 22 restrictions will change to allow up to 50 patrons per enclosed space.

From the second half of July, restrictions will change to allow up to 100 patrons per enclosed space.

The State Government is developing further advice for these services which will be made available ahead of restrictions easing:

Visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>

Guidance for the hospitality industry is also now available on Business Victoria's website:

Visit <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/coronavirus-covid-19/hospitality-industry-guidelines-for-coronavirus-covid-19>



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