



Statement: Evolution of Covid rules

April 19

The Victorian Regional Chamber Alliance is calling on Government to increase flexibility with our Covid rules. Our communities and businesses have proven responsible and reactive to the situation at hand, they have recognised and respected the health requirements of our state.

In our new Covid world we encourage Governments to react and review on an ongoing basis, we believe this will ensure our businesses and communities continue to respect guidelines.

We ask for three changes to our current rules and restrictions:

- Easing of close contact isolation
- The removal of masks for retail and hospitality
- Removal of QR coding (If contact tracing is not required)

Businesses are already significantly impacted by worker shortages with businesses forced to reduce hours of operation or even close. Feedback from businesses across regional Victoria is that in addition to this material worker shortage, businesses are also struggling to manage the impact of the current household contact isolation requirements with owners and staff going into isolation and further reducing their staffing capacity.

The current household contact isolation requirements are impacting not only on business' ability to recover from the devastating financial impacts of the past two years of the pandemic, the mental health of business owners is also suffering further in the form of stress and burnout.

We ask that we move to a system where symptoms are monitored, and daily testing determines isolation requirements. We ask that every consideration be made to allow our businesses to trade at their optimum efficiency now that they are starting on the road to recovery.

Further contact:

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