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| Guidance for safe return to caravan and camping – coronavirus (COVID-19) |
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**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 easing restrictions

From 11:59pm on 31 May 2020 outdoor gatherings can increase to 20.

Overnight stays can resume under appropriate conditions.

Accommodation can open for tourists, including campgrounds and caravan parks, where there are no shared communal facilities.

Communal facilities like kitchens or bathrooms must remain closed. Communal toilet facilities can open.

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

1. a person whose place of residence is the accommodation facility;
2. a person who is ordinarily a resident of Victoria but has no permanent place of residence in Victoria;
3. a person who requires emergency accommodation, including in relation to family violence and other vulnerable groups; or
4. 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 issued by the [Victorian Chief Health Officer](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/state-emergency)
* 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 31 May, camping ground or caravan parks can be opened for reasons of recreation and tourism, provided communal facilities such as shared showers and kitchens remain closed.

Communal toilet facilities will remain open and physical distancing and regular cleaning must be implemented.

On-site accommodation, which requires the use of communal areas such as shared showers and kitchens, remains restricted.

**Why can't communal facilities open in caravan parks and camping grounds?**

Communal facilities may increase the potential risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission. As we work to keep our state safe, this remains an important precaution.

**How many people are allowed in a camping ground?**

The restrictions on public gatherings of up to 20 people apply to groups within the park, not the caravan park or camping ground itself. As such, no group bookings of more than 20 should be taken. Campers should maintain a distance 1.5 metres from others and stay home if they feel unwell.

**Is remote camping permitted?**

Yes**.** From 11:59pm on 31 May, camping where there are no facilities to share, e.g. remote camping, is allowed. Any communal facilities in camping areas other than toilets will not open.

**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.

Staying at private facilities, such as a cabin that has its own private cooking and washing facilities, are allowed under this direction.

**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.
* 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.
* 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.**

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| **Category**   | **Control**   | **Management Action/s** |
| **Facilities**  | **Closure of shared facilities other than toilets** | All shared facilities (such as kitchens and bathrooms) must remain closed other than toilets. As advised by the Chief Health Officer, communal facilities (i.e. public toilets) are to be cleaned at least daily, and private facilities to be cleaned between user groups / bookings. |
| **Camping**  | **Positioning of other services** | Consideration should be given to the placement of tents, caravans and camper trailers within the caravan park/campground, ensuring appropriate distance. Where remote camping can occur, it is the individual campers’ responsibility to comply with the CHO about gatherings (up to 20 people), personal hygiene and social distancing requirements. |
| **Environmental**   | **Frequent cleaning and disinfection**   | Managers of self-contained onsite cabins and caravans must clean them between user/ groups bookings occur.Cleaning of high use facilities within caravan parks and campgrounds should occur at least daily. Otherwise operators should schedule cleaning commensurate with use and access. |
| **Public space, Outdoor**  | **Gathering limit**  | (Up to 20 People) – people should not gather in groups larger than 20. There can be multiple groups in a public space. This applies to groups and activities and remote camping, but each group should remain apart. Caravan Parks and campgrounds can accommodate more than 20 people providing compliance with current restrictions can be maintained.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.  |
| **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 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**  | **Record keeping** | 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**  | 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) Sign templates in Link below.<https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/boards-and-governance/committees-of-management#toc__id_2_signage> |
| **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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