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Coronavirus restrictions to ease for regional Victoria

By Rachel Eddie

Regional Victoria will take slow steps out of lockdown from tomorrow night, with Premier Daniel Andrews confirming the five reasons to leave home would be lifted.

Shepparton will not join the rest of the regions, though, as a COVID-19 cluster continues to smoulder. Greater Melbourne will also continue under strict lockdown.

The relaxation of the rules for the rest of the state will take effect from 11.59pm tomorrow night.

Regional schools will reopen for prep to year two students, as well as year 12s. Remote learning will remain for all other grades.

Regional Victorians will no longer need a reason to leave home, and there will be no limit to the distance they can travel (unless they travel to a lockdown zone).

The authorised worker list will no longer apply, meaning many venues can reopen with strict capacity limits.

What are the new rules for regional Victoria?

People who can work from home in the regions should continue to do so, but 25 per cent of workers will be allowed to return to the workplace.

Up to 20 mourners will be allowed at a funeral, weddings will be permitted for 10 people, and restaurants and cafes can reopen to seated patrons. Retail, entertainment and community facilities will also reopen in the regions.

However, masks will still be mandatory indoors and outdoors.

All single Melburnians will now be allowed to access childcare, regardless of whether or not they are an essential worker, however no other changes will be announced today for people in the city.

The rules will remain in place until the end of September but Shepparton could join the rest of regional Victoria sometime next week, Premier Daniel Andrews said.