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industrial relations : human resources : employment matters : training

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**CIRCULAR:** GEN/164/NAT/164/21  
**DATE:** 19 November 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Victorian COVID-19 Restrictions Update – Directions available  
**ATTENTION:** Chief Executive Officer

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Further to yesterday's Circular regarding the easing of Directions, please note the updated Directions are now available and in force.

You can access a copy at the below links:

- Open Premises Directions (No 5) - [link](#);
- Workplace Directions (No 56) - [link](#); and
- Stay Safe Directions (Victoria) (No 29) - [link](#).

To view all of the Directions, visit:

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/directions-issued-by-victorias-chief-health-officer>

In terms of yesterday's Circular, we wish to clarify the position in relation to **mask wearing** and note that it remains mandatory (per cl 5 of the Stay Safe Directions) to carry and wear a mask in the below situations:

- for a worker of a **food and drink premises** (including registered and licensed clubs), while that person is in an indoor space that is a publicly accessible area of the food and drink premises; and
- for a worker or customer, while in an indoor space that is a publicly accessible area of a **retail premises**.

For further clarification, while the definition of 'retail premises' includes '*the retail provision of services*', please note that it will not cover private offices as they are not 'publicly accessible areas'. Therefore, employees in a real estate office, for example, would not fall under the mandatory mask wearing obligations under the Stay Safe Directions.

The above is a brief summary only and the full Directions should be consulted for further guidance as to your obligations.

If you have any questions or if you require further information, please contact the SIAG National Advisory Service on 03 9644 1400 or 1300 (SIAG HR) / 1300 742 447. The Information provided in this email is generic advice. For advice in respect of your specific situation please contact us.

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