

Dear Tony,

I'm pleased to confirm that the stage 4 directives for permitted healthcare workers will be updated and will come into effect at 11:59pm tonight (11 August 2020).

The log of changes has been updated (word doc on website) and the website content will follow very soon. <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/business-industry-stage-4-restrictions-covid-19>

The changes specifically include the following revised statements:

- Primary health services specific to general practitioners, pharmacy, nursing and midwifery.
- All AHPRA registered health workers - and in addition, social work, speech pathology, dietetics, audiology, providing services that prevent a significant change/deterioration in functional independence necessitating escalation of care (e.g. a requirement for specialist input/review, an increase in care needs and/or alternate accommodation, avoiding a hospital admission or emergency department presentation)
- Any other health worker providing services required under a Chronic Disease Management Plan, a care plan endorsed by NDIS (including self-managed plans), TAC, Workcover or DVA - if care is required to prevent a significant change/deterioration in functional independence necessitating escalation of care (e.g. a requirement for specialist input/review, an increase in care needs and/or alternate accommodation, avoiding a hospital admission or emergency department presentation).

The main changes from the previous directives are as follows;

- the inclusion of audiology as an allied health profession able to provide essential and urgent services
- the inclusion of health workers (including allied health) providing care to people with a chronic disease management plan.

The public FAQ's regarding Allied Health will soon be updated to reflect these changes.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/stage-4-restrictions-summary-covid-19#can-i-attend-an-appointment-with-an-allied-health-professions-eg-physio-dentist-osteo>

Thank you for your leadership and ongoing support as we all navigate this challenging time together.

Kind regards,
Donna

Adj Assoc Prof Donna Markham
Chief Allied Health Officer