

**TEMPORARY ORDER
COVID-19 MEETING
ALLOWING GIVING NOTICE OF MOTIONS, MOVING MOTIONS AND DEBATE.
ONLY MEMBERS IN THE CHAMBER MAY VOTE**

MR DAVIS

I move, by leave, That so much of Standing, Sessional and Temporary Orders be suspended to the extent necessary to allow the following temporary order to come into effect immediately and remain in place until **31 December 2021** —

1. Definition of Chamber

- (1) The **lower public galleries, lower side galleries and President's lower galleries and upper galleries** (excluding the media gallery) are taken to be part of the Legislative Council Chamber.
- (2) Protective Services Officers are permitted to enter the upper galleries and will not be considered a 'stranger' for the purposes of Standing Order 22.01.

2. Acting Presidents

- (1) In the event that the President and Deputy President are absent from duty during the sitting of the House (for whatever reason), Acting Presidents may perform the duties and exercise the authority of the President while presiding over proceedings of the Council.
- (2) During an adjournment of the Council, if both the President and Deputy President are absent from duty (for whatever reason), the President or Deputy President may, in writing to the Clerk, nominate an Acting President to perform all duties and exercise the authority of the President during this absence.

3. Questions on notice

Standing Orders 8.01(2) and 8.09 are suspended and the following will apply:

- (1) A Member may lodge a written question on notice by providing it electronically to the Table Office.
- (2) A question on notice lodged with the Table Office must be provided in a manner that clearly identifies the Member asking the question.
- (3) Questions on notice may be asked on non-sitting days.
- (4) Questions on notice lodged on a day when the House is not sitting will be published on the Questions database on the Parliament's website on the next business day after they are lodged and will be included in the next Notice Paper published.
- (5) A question on notice will be considered as asked on the date it is published on the Questions database and a response is due within 30 days.
- (6) The President may reinstate a question or part of a question on notice pursuant to Standing Order 8.15 on a non-sitting day.

4. COVID-19 meetings

- (1) If the Council has not met in the usual manner (not a COVID-19 meeting as defined below) for 14 calendar days, the President shall call a COVID-19 meeting for the next Tuesday.
- (2) A COVID-19 meeting will commence on a Tuesday at 12.00 noon and on a Wednesday at 10.00 a.m. and shall be considered an official proceeding of the Council for all purposes.
- (3) The Council will continue to meet for COVID-19 meetings every Tuesday and Wednesday until the Council meets in the usual manner.
- (4) COVID-19 meetings may not take place in a week when a gazetted public holiday occurs.
- (5) The President will advise all Members of a COVID-19 meeting no later than 2.00 p.m. on the preceding Monday and the Clerk shall make a Notice Paper and Daily Business Program for a Tuesday COVID-19 meeting available to all Members at the same time.
- (6) A COVID-19 meeting is a combination of a quorum of Members physically present at Parliament House and additional Members participating in proceedings via audio-visual link.
- (7) A Member participating remotely is not counted for the purposes of a quorum, may not vote and may not chair the debate.
- (8) The Chair will commence proceedings when a quorum is present in the Chamber. In relation to Members participating via audio-visual link, the Chair must be satisfied that the audio-visual link is of sufficient quality to —
 - (a) verify the identity of the Member attending via the link; and
 - (b) enable meaningful participation in the meeting by that Member.
- (9) Members may either contribute to an item by seeking the call, or if a Member wishes to incorporate —
 - (a) Members' statements;
 - (b) constituency questions;
 - (c) adjournment debate matters;
 - (d) their second reading speech of any bills debated; and/or
 - (e) their contribution to any Government or General Business motion moved;they may provide them electronically to the Clerk (by email to council@parliament.vic.gov.au) by the adjournment of the House.
- (10) In relation to raising matters verbally and incorporated material —
 - (a) the Clerk may only accept matters up to the number, either delivered verbally or submitted for incorporation, specified in the Order of Business for the COVID-19 meeting;
 - (b) the House authorises and requires matters to be published in Hansard at the point in the proceedings/order of business that the item would have occurred;
 - (c) all incorporated material to be published in Hansard is subject to the Hansard editorial policy;
 - (d) if any submitted incorporated material contains unbecoming expressions or does not comply with the rules of debate, the President may direct that the matter be removed or amended before it is published.
- (11) A Member may raise a point of order via email with the President up to two hours after a verbal answer has been given by a Minister to a question without notice in relation to the determination that the Minister provide a written response pursuant to Standing Order 8.07. The President will make a ruling by return email

to all Members accordingly and if a response is ordered, this will be included in the Minutes of the Proceedings.

- (12) The Order of Business at a Tuesday COVID-19 meeting will be —
Prayer and Acknowledgement of Country
Messages
Questions
Constituency Questions (up to 15 Members)
Formal Business
Members' Statements (up to 15 Members)
Government Business (up to 5 hours)
Adjournment (up to 20 Members).
- (13) The Order of Business at a Wednesday COVID-19 meeting will be —
Prayer and Acknowledgement of Country
Messages
Formal Business
Members' Statements (up to 15 Members)
General Business (up to 5 hours)
At 12.00 noon Questions
Constituency Questions (up to 15 Members)
General Business (continues)
Government Business (up to 1 hour)
Business of the House – the President shall set a day and hour of the next usual meeting of the Council
Adjournment (up to 20 Members).
- (14) In order to assist Members participating remotely, the Chair will use a formal call list to allocate the call for each item of business where practical and Members wishing to participate remotely may seek the call by —
(a) informing their whip, or the whip's representative, who will inform the Chair in advance — for a Government or Opposition Member;
(b) informing the Clerk, who will inform the Chair in advance — for any other Member.
- (15) When a Member participates remotely, the Chair may exercise all their usual powers to control the debate.
- (16) The Chair is given any additional powers necessary to facilitate the smooth running of the House and/or to address any technical issues, including but not limited to —
(a) stopping the clock;
(b) returning to a Member's contribution; and
(c) re-ordering business.
- (17) The President may issue formal Guidelines about remote participation which must not be inconsistent with this temporary order and must be complied with as if they are temporary orders and the President may take any action necessary should Members not abide by the Guidelines.

5. Procedure Committee

- (1) The Procedure Committee may meet to consider and recommend rules and orders necessary for any next sitting of the Council.
- (2) Any recommendations that the Procedure Committee reports to the House must be agreed to by all parties and independent Members on the Committee.
- (3) The President will give the Leader of the Government in the Council the call, as a matter of precedence over all other business, to move the adoption of a report

from the Procedure Committee making recommendations for any next sitting of the Council, by leave, at the next sitting of the Council.

6. Rapid COVID-19 testing

This House empowers the Clerk to purchase and offer the option of rapid COVID-19 testing for Members of Parliament to be made available prior to each sitting day.