

Media Release

28 October 2021

Bunnings stores re-open and sausage sizzles return in metro Melbourne

Bunnings stores in metropolitan Melbourne will re-open their doors to all customers on Friday at 6pm, and in line with the easing of Victorian government restrictions, community sausage sizzles will make their long-awaited return at select stores over the weekend.

Bunnings Managing Director, Mike Schneider, said: “We’re really excited to be welcoming customers back into our Melbourne stores this weekend as we take the next step along the reopening roadmap.

“In line with this milestone, the community sausage sizzles will be returning to selected stores in Melbourne this weekend. We know that it’s a tradition that our teams, customers and community groups have really missed, and we hope to have them back up and running at all stores over the next few weeks.

“COVID lockdowns have had a real impact on the fundraising activities of so many community groups and we encourage everyone to pick up a snag and show your support if there is a sausage sizzle running at your local store this weekend.

“Both our teams and community groups will use their experience of running BBQs on and off throughout the pandemic to ensure that the sizzles run smoothly and adhere to all our COVID-safe measures,” Mike said.

With Bunnings stores reopening after three months on Friday store teams have been busy preparing for the return of customers.

“We received really positive feedback after opening our nurseries last Friday, and our teams really enjoyed seeing customers at the store once again, helping them with everything they need for their spring gardening projects. Our teams are so pleased to be finally opening the doors to our warehouses too this week, are doing an incredible job preparing for customers to return.

“The safety of our team and customers has always been at the core of everything we do, and the community can be assured that our strong COVID-safe protocols will remain in place across our store network.

“We ask customers to be kind to one another and our team during a period when all retailers are likely to be a little bit busier than usual, and we thank them for their understanding and for following the government guidelines when visiting our stores ,” Mike said.

Customers who prefer to shop online or are unable to make it in-store can continue to purchase their products via Click & Deliver or Bunnings’ contactless Drive & Collect pick-up service, where products can be ordered online and collected from Bunnings’ car parks, without customers needing to get out of their car.

-ENDS-

Further information:

- On Friday our stores in metro Melbourne will be open until 10pm to give customers additional time to get items they need. From Saturday, trading hours will revert to trading hours on our website for each store.
- Our nurseries are currently open at selected stores for outdoor trading only in Metropolitan Melbourne, in line with current Victorian Government restrictions and retail customers can shop outdoors from a range of seasonal products such as greenlife, garden décor and landscaping supplies.
- All areas of our stores in metro Melbourne are currently open as usual for Trade customers.

The Bunnings logo, featuring the word "BUNNINGS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a red swoosh under the letter "B".

- Sausage sizzles will return progressively as our store teams book groups in and take them through the health and safety requirements in line with the VIC reopening roadmap. We expect to have most stores back up and running over the next few weeks.
- Community groups behind the sausage sizzle this weekend include South Melbourne Rotary Club, Victoria University Amateur Football Club, Blackburn Lions Club and Bk 2 Basics community pantry.

Comprehensive COVID-safe measures will be in place when metro Melbourne stores re-open to retail customers, including:

- Monitoring and limiting customers in store and in busier aisles, using the 'Count Me In' app.
- Increased cleaning particularly for counters, trolleys and baskets throughout the day and a deep clean of each store using disinfectants at least daily.
- Providing team and customers with hand sanitiser and gloves for team.
- Requiring team and customers to wear face masks in stores
- Physical distancing measures, including taping floor to mark 1.5m, moving stock on pallets around to open-up space, trestle tables in front of service areas to create more distance.
- Encouraging customers to use Tap and Pay where possible
- Security present to help team members monitor compliance
- Acrylic register guards installed in all stores
- Launched the Product Finder App that lets customers search our product range before they leave home and create a shopping list shows which aisle items are located to speed up the shop.

Changes made to community sausage sizzles to enhance customer and community safety:

- Separate ordering and pick-up points to allow for 1.5 metres' physical distancing
- Increased cleaning processes and hygiene requirements
- Increased signage to guide customers
- Requiring community group volunteers to wear a face mask during sausage sizzle shifts

For media enquiries or to arrange an interview or photo opp with a local community group, please contact the Bunnings media team at media@bunnings.com.au to arrange a time.

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