

Face Masks and Temperature Testing for Building and Construction Workers

Explanatory Note to Revision 5 of the Building and Construction Industry COVID 19 Guidelines.

This is an Emergency Advice from Employer Associations and Unions. Given the increase in COVID-19 cases on sites and the escalation of community transmission, we have jointly determined further measures to protect lives, save jobs and businesses. We urge you to read this advice and implement it as soon as is reasonably practicable. Do not sit back and wait – please ACT NOW.

The Industry Working Group responsible for the Covid -19 Guidelines for the Building and Construction Industry Victoria has determined, having regard to the advice of DHHS, that additional measures of wearing face masks and undertaking temperature testing are clearly measures that can add to significantly reduce the risk of contracting Covid -19 on sites. For these reasons, in the best interests of workers and the industry, these additional measures are considered essential.

Face Masks

The Chief Health Officer and the DHHS has now recommended that adults in the Melbourne metropolitan area and the Mitchell Shire wear a face mask when outside of their home, if it is difficult to keep 1.5 meters apart from other people.

For building and construction sites the practicality of this new advice is simple. Use masks:

- When travelling to and from work where you cannot physically distance and on public transport
- Whenever travelling in a hoist or lift
- In a confined space. Any uncertainty should be clarified with a health and safety representative
- Travelling in a vehicle with other people When operating an item of plant with another person.

The term face mask includes both cloth masks and single use face masks (commonly known as surgical masks). Both masks are suitable for use to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID -19). N95/ P2 masks, must be compliant with Australian Standard 1716.

Mask Type	Use Frequency	Cleaning Frequency	Lifespan
Cloth	Multiple	Each day	Fair wear and tear
Surgical	Single	N/A throw out after use	Single use
N95/P2	Multiple	Each day	Follow manufacturers instructions

Do I have to wear a face mask?

Yes, in the situations set out above. It is everyone's responsibility to stay safe and keep others safe.

Do I have to wear a face mask straight away?

Arrangements are being made so that masks will be available as soon as is reasonably practicable. Where masks are already available, these measures should commence immediately. Any difficulties in supply of masks should be referred to the Industry Liaison Officer.

How long will this be in place for?

For as long as needed. However, the policy will be reviewed at the end of the current state lockdown period.

It must be noted that the wearing of masks in these situations is an important and additional measure to help reducing the risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19)

Attached are notes on How to Wear a Mask.

Temperature Testing

The best protection from COVID-19 is to keep it off building and constructions sites. All sites are to undertake a risk assessment to determine if temperature screening is a reasonably practical/suitable control for the site.

Please refer to the **Protocols for Temperature Screening in the Building and Construction Industry** attached to V5.

This measure will be reviewed at the end of the period of the current State Lockdown period. Any difficulties in supply of equipment should be referred to the Industry Liaison Officer.

These provisions have now been incorporated in V5 of the complete set of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Guidelines for the Building and Construction Industry Victoria (Revision 5) 15 July 2020 which accompanies this Notice.