

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidelines Building and Construction Industry Victoria (Revision 10)

Explanatory Note -16 February 2021

Revision 10 of the Building and Construction Industry COVID-19 Guidelines are issued as of today's date. These Guidelines are intended to take effect immediately for those sites that are continuing to operate in compliance with the current "Circuit Breaker Action" and for sites returning to work upon the "lockdown" restrictions being lifted, subject to any other Directions issued by DHHS and the Victorian Government.

Consistent with DHHS Workplace Directions No 19, issued 12 February 2021, the following are the major updates:

1. 2021 - New Variants of the Coronavirus

The Guidelines now acknowledge the risks posed by new variants of the coronavirus, the extended State of Emergency in Victoria and current Workplace Directions (No 19).

Refer Preamble

2. Public Exposure Sites

Worker declarations have been amended to ensure that persons who have attended public exposure sites at the nominated times (as declared by the Department of Health) do not attend site.

Refer sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 and Flow chart page 33

3. Face Masks

Face masks are again required to be carried and worn at all times, unless exemptions apply. Note that DHHS Workplace Directions in relation to face masks may change following the "Circuit Breaker Action" – ensure compliance with the applicable Workplace Directions in force from time to time.

Refer section 3.8

4. Density Quotient/Physical Distancing

The total number of workers in areas at any one time including in crib rooms, must meet the density quotient of 1 person per 2 sq metres AND ensure physical distancing of 1.5 metres is maintained.

Refer section 3.9

5. Ventilation and Air Flow in enclosed spaces

Reference is now included to the risk posed by airborne transmission of the coronavirus and measures that should be taken to improve ventilation and airflow in enclosed areas.

Refer section 3.9.10

Importantly, employers are reminded to amend their Construction COVIDSafe Plans accordingly and as always, to consult with employees and their representatives in doing so.

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