

WHSE ALERT

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Face Coverings

Guidance for Bay Building employees and contractors for the wearing of face coverings when dealing with Covid-19

Health advice from the Victorian state government requires face coverings to be warn to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Construction workers will have to wear a face covering unless they meet any of the criteria for exception such as a medical condition or if wearing a face covering creates a risk to the person related to their work.

Where do I need to wear a face covering?

If you live within the state of Victoria, you must wear a face covering whenever you leave your home, unless an exception applies. A face covering needs to cover both your nose and mouth. It could be a face mask or shield.



What does wearing a face covering mean?

A face mask is recommended and this can include surgical, cloth, P2 disposable masks, and half-face respirators. It does not have to be surgical grade and you can make your own. It does need to be designed or made to be worn over the nose and mouth to protect the wearer. The face covering is not to have text or images that maybe considered offensive.







If a face mask is not available other forms of face covering may be used such as a scarf or bandana. Though a face mask is recommended whilst on a site.

Why do I have to wear a face covering?

Face coverings are helpful to stop droplets spreading when someone speaks, laughs, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) and is contagious, but feels well.



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The best way to protect other people against coronavirus (COVID-19) is to:

1. Stay home if feeling unwell or suffer from anyone of the following symptoms:



2. Maintain hygiene washing hands often, and cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue.







3. Maintain social distancing and have zero contact with occupants when at sites.



A face covering is not required in the following circumstances:

- A person who is affected by a relevant medical condition including problems with their breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or a mental health condition. This also includes persons who are communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to that person's health and safety related to their work. A risk assessment would be required to justify such a risk.
- Persons whose professions require clear enunciation or visibility of their mouth. This includes teaching or live broadcasting.
- The person is travelling in a vehicle by themselves or with other members of their household.
- When consuming food, drink, medication or when smoking/vaping.
- During emergencies.



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Further information covering how to make face covering, exemptions, and exercise can be found at the Department of Health Website:

https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-coverings-covid-19





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