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# Using Masks in the Workplace

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*As at 21 July 2020*

## Are masks compulsory in Victoria?

**From 11.59pm on Wednesday 22 July, people living in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will be required to wear a face covering when leaving home for one of the four reasons. The fine for not wearing a face covering will be \$200.**

The latest advice on face covering for all Victorians is provided on the [Department of Health and Human Services website](#) and the [Business Victoria website](#).

## Do I need to provide face masks to workers?

The Victorian government is currently advising employers to ensure that their employees wear face coverings if they are working unless an exception applies.

The [Department of Health and Human Services website](#) sets out the lawful exceptions to wearing a face covering. These include exemptions for infants and children under the age of 12 years and persons affected by a relevant medical condition (e.g. problem breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or mental health condition).

Employers have a responsibility to identify whether there is a risk to the health of workers from exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19) at their workplace, as well as areas where workers are unable to maintain physical distancing by staying 1.5 metres apart.

WorkSafe can assist with tailored advice on how to create a safe workplace, including for coronavirus (COVID-19). You can contact WorkSafe's advisory service on 1800 136 089 or through the [Worksafe website](#).

Generally speaking, employers should provide workers with face masks as well as instructions and training on how to use face masks safely. Fit testing is very important to ensure that the mask is effective. Information about using a mask is provided by the manufacturer.

[Safe Work Australia](#) provides general information on how to use face masks safely and recommends that employers provide appropriate facilities in the workplace including hand washing facilities and sealed bins to dispose of used masks.

If a worker has been provided training and instruction about using a mask, they must comply with that training and those instructions.

Single-use surgical masks or properly constructed cloth masks may be used if they are replaced frequently and appropriately washed and dried. The Victorian Government has issued [guidance on cloth masks](#).