



Face Coverings – Whole of Victoria

Link: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updated-restrictions-announced-30-july-covid-19>

What is changing?

From 11:59pm on Sunday 2 August everyone in Victoria aged 12 years and over will need to wear a face covering when they leave home.

This is a critical step in slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria. We know that face coverings help stop droplets spreading when someone speaks, laughs, coughs, or sneezes, including for someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) but feels well.

Why are face coverings being made mandatory for everyone in Victoria?

If you have coronavirus (COVID-19), face coverings stop you spreading it. If you are well, face coverings protect you from getting coronavirus (COVID-19).

Wearing a face covering is a small action that will make a big difference to slowing the spread of coronavirus in Victoria, saving lives and getting us back to enjoying the activities we all miss so much.

One of the many challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) is that some people may develop symptoms later or not realise they have it. Wearing a face covering means these people are far less likely to spread the virus to other people.

What is a face covering?

A face covering can be a cloth or surgical face mask or face shield. If a face mask is not available other forms of face covering may be used such as a scarf or bandana.

Do children have to wear face coverings?

Anyone aged 12 years and older must wear a face covering. Children aged three to 11 do not have to wear a face covering but individual families can make their own decisions regarding their children.

Primary school students aged 12 years and over who are attending primary school do not need to wear a face covering while at school.

Children aged two years and younger should never wear a face covering due to choking and strangulation risks.

I'm a farmer, do I need to wear a face covering when I'm working on my own property?

You do not need to wear a face covering if you are working on your own premises.

If you work on a farm that is not your own, you must wear a mask unless a lawful exception applies.



Can I take my face covering off to eat at a restaurant?

You can take your face covering off when eating or drinking. You should carry a plastic zip-lock bag to store your face covering in while you eat.

Remember to wash your hands or use hand sanitiser before and after removing your face covering as this stops the transfer of germs and viruses from the face covering to your hands, face or other objects.

Do I need to wear a face covering when someone visits my home?

Yes. You should wear a face covering when someone visits your home and your visitors should wear a face covering. If you live in an area of Victoria where you can have friends and family visit your home, then they should wear a face covering, and so should you, during their visit. You can take off your face covering while eating and drinking.

Does a tradesperson need to wear a mask if visiting my home?

Yes. You should wear a face covering when someone visits your home and your visitors should wear a face covering.

Do I need to wear a face covering if I'm going bushwalking?

If you are doing strenuous exercise, such as walking in the bush, where you are out of breath or puffing, you do not need to wear a face covering. You do have to carry a face covering with you so you can wear it before or after exercising, unless you have a lawful exception.

Do I need to wear a face covering when I play community sport?

You don't need to wear a face covering while undertaking strenuous exercise or playing sport. You do have to carry a face covering with you so you can wear it before or after exercising, unless you have a lawful exception.

Do people attending and watching community sport need to wear a face covering?

Yes, if you are watching community sport you need to wear a face covering. Where permitted, spectators should be in groups of no more than 10 people and should keep at least 1.5 metres between themselves and others.

Will I be fined if I don't wear a face covering?

If you do not wear a face covering and do not have a lawful excuse you can be fined \$200.