

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidelines

Building and Construction Industry

Victoria (Revision 11)

Explanatory Note - 4 March 2021

Revision 11 of the Building and Construction Industry COVID-19 Guidelines are issued as of today's date. These Guidelines take effect immediately.

Consistent with DHHS Workplace Directions No 21, issued 26 February 2021 and DHHS Stay Safe Directions No 16 issued 26 February 2021, the following are the major updates:

1. State of Emergency

The State of Emergency powers of the Victorian Government are extended to midnight 15 March 2021. These powers enable the government and DHHS to make and enforce Workplace and Stay Safe Directions to manage the Coronavirus pandemic in Victoria.

(Preamble)

2. Definitions of Close Contact

The definitions of Close Contact have been expanded in accordance with recent DHHS advice to now define both PRIMARY and SECONDARY close contacts, PLUS anyone else deemed to be so, based on what is known about a particular case or outbreak.

(Preamble)

3. Electronic Workplace Mapping

In an important update, the Victorian government has announced that from 27 March 2021, all businesses using electronic record keeping – such as a QR code system, MUST use a system that seamlessly integrates with the government's contact tracing system to help contact tracers respond to outbreaks.

(Section 3.2)

4. Density Quotients

A new subclause has been included in Section 3 – Controlling Risks on Site, to clarify the application of Density Quotients in enclosed areas, meeting and crib rooms etc.

(Section 3.4)

5. Face Masks

Face masks are required to be carried and worn in circumstances where it is not possible to maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres. It is now noted that under the Stay Safe Directions, it is mandatory to wear a mask in some other situations, such as when travelling to work on public transport or commercial passenger vehicles, or entering larger retail centres for purchase of meals and/or supplies.

(Section 3.9.1)

6. DHHS procedure for a Positive Case

An explanation has been provided for the methodology adopted by DHHS in dealing with the situation when a worker has been diagnosed with a positive case of Coronavirus. This is a dynamic statement of the current procedure which may change depending on the circumstances of each case or outbreak.
(Section 4.4)

7. Guidance Note on Ventilation and Air Flow

Further to the reference in the Industry Guidelines Rev 10 (Section 3.10.10), a Rapid Guidance Note is now attached to provide further information about the risk posed by airborne transmission of the coronavirus and measures that could be taken to improve ventilation and airflow in enclosed areas upon obtaining competent advice from industry HVAC professionals.
(Attachment 9.7)

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

Michael Paynter

Industry Liaison Officer
Building and Construction Industry
Department of Premier and Cabinet
E: michael.paynter@dpc.vic.gov.au

4 March 2021

