

Face Masks Video Micro-learn transcript

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In a pandemic situation, face masks may be required in the workplace as Personal Protective Equipment.

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As in all Work Health and Safety situations, the current pandemic means an Employer must undertake a risk assessment and eliminate or minimise any risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Risk assessments must be revised regularly according to changes – so stay up to date.

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Script: Maintaining a safe workplace in a pandemic should include:

- Physical distancing
- Regular workplace cleaning
- Regular hand washing
- And finally - Isolation. Workplaces should have clear policies in place, so workers know what to do if suffering symptoms

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In some workplaces – depending on vulnerabilities, outbreaks, health direction or risk assessments – face masks may be mandatory as Personal Protective Equipment. In addition to face masks however - **All** other forms of prevention and protection should also be applied.

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Face masks are Personal Protective Equipment and protect both the wearer and surrounding people from spreading COVID.

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Where mandated by law – or by a Risk Assessment – the Employer must provide face masks for their workers where appropriate.

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Workers **MUST** follow the training provided by their employer.

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If the law, or risk assessment, enforces the use of face masks at work – It is **not** the responsibility of workplaces to provide face masks to their workers outside of work activities. Workers will need to provide their own if required.

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If workplaces are required to provide face masks – they **MUST** train workers on their safe and proper use.

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Steps to safely wear a face covering.

Step 1. Before putting on the mask, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use a hand sanitiser that is made up of over 60% alcohol.

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Step 2. Place the mask on as instructed. Check for defects in the mask. Do not use a mask that is damaged.

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Step 3. A mask should fit securely around the face, specifically covering the nose and the mouth areas. The mask should fit snugly on your face.

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Step 4. Don't touch the mask once in position. If the mask gets dirty or damp, replace it with a new one.

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Step 5. Before removing your mask - Again, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.

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Step 6. Remove the mask without touching the front of the mask. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth at all times.

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Step 7. Dispose of single-use masks. Store used cloth face masks in a plastic bag until you can wash them. Do **NOT** share your mask with others

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Step 8. Finally, wash your hands again.

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Remember – Face masks are one way to prevent the spread of any contagion and **all** other controls should also be adhered to.

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Communication and consultation are essential in a pandemic situation. Workplaces need to have structures in place to allow conversations to happen and risk assessments to stay current.

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Pandemic situations can change rapidly, and workplaces and workers must keep informed. Local conditions may vary so it is important to monitor all official advice.

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Please visit Comcare's website for more factsheets and guidance.

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Other sources of information in the Commonwealth jurisdiction include the APSC, Safe Work Australia, National Covid-19 Coordination commission, Department of Health and the Fair work Ombudsman.

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Stay Safe, Stay connected

This micro-learn video is available on Comcare LMS.