

Wearing of cloth face masks in DCJ workplaces

Masks for coronavirus (COVID-19) includes surgical masks and particulate filter for respirators (such as P2, N95).

Why use masks?

Masks protect the worker from infection. Proper use helps keep DCJ workers safe and stops the spread of COVID-19. Studies show that masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth.

Choose the right mask

The choice of masks and appropriate PPE should be determined by a risk assessment.

Reusable cloth masks and face coverings:

Unlike those of surgical masks, the quality and effectiveness of cloth masks are not regulated in Australia. As such, cloth masks **MUST NOT** be used whilst at work across DCJ.

Surgical Masks

Surgical masks are loose-fitting, generally disposable masks that form a physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer and the immediate environment. Surgical masks do not achieve a close seal to the wearer's face, however are useful in limiting the spread of large particles/droplets from an infected person (such as cough or sneeze spray).

P2 / N95 Respirators

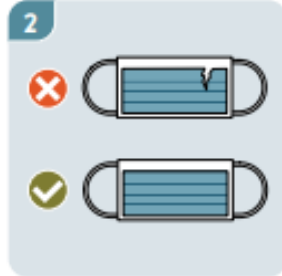
Particulate filter respirators such as P2/N95 respirators should be worn instead of a surgical mask if risk assessment suggests a likely high risk of transmission.

Please refer to the [“How to use Mask guide on the follow page. Information as to other specific locations where masks must be worn can be found on the NSW Health website.](#)

Prevent the spread of communicable disease: How to use a mask



1 Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before touching the mask. If you don't have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



2 Inspect the mask to ensure it's not damaged.



3 Turn the mask so the coloured side is facing outward.



4 Put the mask over your face. If there is a metallic strip, press it to fit the bridge of your nose.



5 Put the loops around each of your ears, or tie the top and bottom straps.



6 Make sure your mouth and nose are covered and there are no gaps. Expand the mask by pulling the bottom of it under your chin.



7 Press the metallic strip again so it moulds to the shape of your nose. Wash your hands again.



8 Don't touch the mask while you're wearing it. If you do, wash your hands.



9 Don't wear the mask if it gets wet or dirty. Don't reuse it. Follow the correct procedure for removing the mask.

Removing the mask

1 Wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

2 Lean forward to remove your mask. Touch only the ear loops or ties, not the front of the mask.

3 Dispose of the mask safely.

4 Wash your hands. If required, follow the procedure for putting on a new mask.

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