



Dear Colleagues,

Metro has always maintained that it would follow expert advice in the rapidly evolving global health pandemic that is COVID-19.

This afternoon, the State Government announced that everyone living in metro Melbourne and Mitchell Shire are now recommended to wear face masks in situations where they are leaving their home and social/physical distancing is not guaranteed. This also applies to people entering metro Melbourne and Mitchell Shire for one of the four reasons, such as work.

This comes as Victoria records 288 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours – the single biggest spike in cases nationally since the pandemic started.

At Metro, this means:

- Where you cannot guarantee a 1.5 metre social/physical distance, including in your workplace, you should wear a mask.
- You should continue to social/physical distance where you can, even if you are wearing a mask.
- Metro will supply the colleagues who need masks, with masks. Speak to your leader about the process in your workplace for accessing masks.
- It's a recommendation – this is not mandated but rather advisory in nature.
- First and foremost people who are unwell should not come to work and should get tested.
- If healthy people need to travel and social distancing cannot be guaranteed, they are advised to wear a mask. This, again, is a request and we won't be asking colleagues to enforce this among passengers.
- Public transport remains an essential service.
- Those colleagues who can do their role at home, should remain working at home.
- This comes into effect immediately.

Next steps

- Colleagues in Passenger Delivery and Projects will receive more information from your relevant General Manager shortly.
- In the meantime, you may wish to view the videos from the World Health Organisation about how to wear surgical and fabric masks properly.

World Health Organisation Videos

Video: How to wear a surgical mask safely To view, click on the image or refer to Paperlite.	Video: How to wear a fabric mask safely To view, click on the image or refer to Paperlite.
	

More information

- The Department of Health and Human Services website (www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) is your first port of call for accurate and up to date advice about COVID-19.
- DHHS's guidance on [masks](#) can be found here.
- For questions about masks, please refer to the communication coming shortly from your relevant General Manager, and talk to your Manager.

Please take care and stay safe.

Rob

Robert Duvel
Executive Director Safety, Environment & Risk

