

Face Masks – Frequently Asked Questions

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Can I wear a bandana or a scarf?

While the Victorian Chief Health Officer recommends wearing a disposable surgical mask or a cloth mask made of three layers of a mix of breathable fabrics to ensure adequate protection, any face mask or covering is better than none. This includes a scarf or bandana.

I have a medical issue (such as asthma), do I have to wear a mask?

There are reasonable excuses or exceptions for not wearing a face covering, which include:
A person who is affected by a relevant medical condition - including problems with their breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or a mental health condition. This also includes persons who are communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

You must seek prior approval from the MMA to be exempt from wearing a face mask while at the Market.

I work in an office, do I have to wear a mask when I'm in my office?

Yes, you must wear a face covering at all times when on Market Land, unless an exception applies. If you work in an enclosed office on your own, you don't have to wear a mask while at your desk. If someone enters your space and when you leave it, you need to wear a mask.

I do physical work, can I take my mask off to work? Considering runners can run with their mask off.

No, you must wear your face mask at all times while on Market Land. You would have heard in the media that there are exemptions for those doing strenuous exercise, but these are limited to things such as jogging, running or cycling, not work related physical activity. A comparable job might be those in the construction industry, and these workers are required to wear a mask at all times.

My glasses fog up when I wear a mask. How can I stop them fogging up?

Make sure the face covering is fitted and pinched on your nose if possible. Put your glasses on after the face covering. Wash your glasses with detergent and water to create a film to prevent fogging. You can also use micropore tape (available at all pharmacies) to tape the face covering along the bridge of your nose and cheeks, then put your glasses on top. Or put a folded tissue across the bridge of your nose, then put your face covering on and your glasses on top.



Do I need to wear a face covering at my place of work or my desk even if I am 1.5 metres away from others?

Yes, you must wear a face covering at all times when on Market Land, unless an exception applies. If you work in an enclosed office on your own, you don't have to wear a mask while at your desk. If someone enters your space and when you leave it, you need to wear a mask.

As an employer, do I need to require my staff to wear face coverings?

Yes, you are required to ensure your employees wear face coverings if they are working, unless an exception applies.

I do not have a mask. Where can I get one? Will I be allowed entry to the market without one.

It is your responsibility to source your own face covering. Mask can be purchased from many retailers or chemists, or you can make your own.

You will not be allowed entry to the Market without a face covering unless you have an exemption and prior approval from the MMA.

For today you can give a gold coin donation and we will provide you with a disposable mask. Any money raised from the sale of these masks will be donated to the Northern Hospital Fund.

I am a smoker. Can I remove my mask to smoke when in a designated area?

Yes. You can take your face covering off when smoking. You must maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres at all times when smoking and practise good hygiene.

Smoking should not be used as an excuse not to wear a face covering. You must use common sense and wear a face covering at all times possible.

Can I take my face covering off when eating or drinking?

Yes. You can take your face covering off when eating or drinking. You must maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres at all times when eating or drinking and practise good hygiene.

Eating and drinking should not be used as an excuse not to wear a face covering. You must use common sense and wear a face covering at all times possible.

What if I refuse to wear a mask all together?

Wearing a face covering helps keep you and others safe. Those who refuse to wear a face mask will be subject to penalties which include being suspended from the Market. Victoria Police may also



visit the Market and they will issue fines of \$200 to people who do not wear a face covering unless they have a valid reason for an exception.

I live in Regional Victoria where face masks are not mandatory, do I still need to wear one at the Market?

Yes, if you are coming to the Market from outside Melbourne or Mitchell Shire you must wear a face covering unless an exception applies.

Why should I have to wear a face mask upon entry if I am in my vehicle on my own?

If you are driving with people for work or people you don't live with, then you must wear a face covering.

You must wear a face covering if you are a passenger or driver in a commercial vehicle for work purposes.

The Victorian Government rules state that If you are driving alone or only travelling with people from your household, you do not need to wear a face covering; however, to ensure all Market users have face coverings, the MMA has made it mandatory that masks must be worn upon entry, before temperature screening is done. Masks must be kept on at all times from this point.