

# QMS-PRO-99c

## MMA SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FACE MASKS / COVERING POLICY



### **Enforcement of Social Distancing & use of Face Mask / Coverings**

The MMA is implementing this social distancing and face masks / covering policy to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

### **Background**

Community transmission of COVID-19 continues to grow in Metropolitan Melbourne.

The MMA has implemented a range of procedures to reduce the risk of an infected individual transmitting the virus within the Market, from temperature screening upon entry to increased cleaning schedules. Still, these measures are not fool-proof, particularly where an infected individual does not show any symptoms of COVID-19.

The most effective way to stop transmission of COVID-19 is by practising good hygiene, wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and adhering to strict social distancing rules – MMA OH&S requirements in accordance with DHHS and WHO guidance (as of the time of this policy).

While a great number of Market users are doing the right thing, some people are deliberately ignoring social distancing rules, and not wearing PPE such as face mask / covering - these people are putting the Market community at risk.

### **Enforcement of Social Distancing & use of Face Mask / Coverings**

**Face masks** - It is strongly recommended that you wear a face mask when you are unable to consistently keep 1.5 metres distance from other people (e.g. on the Buyers' Walk, trading floor); however, there is not a mandatory requirement to wear a face mask in the market (both indoors and outdoors). You should continue to carry a face mask with you at all times, and you should put it on when you are not able to maintain social distancing. Individual businesses may choose to implement their own mandatory face mask rules for employees as part of their COVIDSafe plan.

**Importance of Social Distancing** - As restrictions and risk mitigation processes are rolled back, the importance of adhering to social distancing rules is essential. You must remain at least 1.5 metres from other Market users wherever possible; Market Relations Officers will issue warnings and suspensions to market users who deliberately break social distancing rules.

To help ensure the safety and business continuity of the Melbourne Market, the MMA is now imposing penalties for those deliberately not following social distancing rules or wearing a face mask where appropriate, *Note "it is intended that the requirement to wear a face mask / covering will mirror the Premier's directions and DHHS requirements and guidance eg. if the DHHS/ Premier recommend that a face mask is required (not just a scarf) then that higher standard will apply to this policy"*

### **Penalties**

Under Operating Rule 12(b), A Person on Market Land must comply with the OH&S Plan and all relevant OH&S requirements at all times; therefore, any person found deliberately breaking social distancing rules or not wearing a face mask / covering will be subject the following penalties:

- 1st offence – Warning that is recorded in a Market user's file
- 2nd offence – 24-hour suspension from the Market \*
- 3rd offence – 48-hour suspension from the Market \*
- 4th offence – 72-hour suspension from the Market \*

*\*Any suspension is effective from the next business day.*

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Market Relations Officers will also issue penalties 'after the fact' for non-compliance with social distancing rules and / or not wearing a face mask / covering as part of their current review of CCTV footage.

If a market user has a lawful excuse for not wearing a face mask / covering, then they must provide supporting document of such to the Manager of Operations / MMA General Counsel & Head of Property. E.g. if there is a medical excuse for not wearing a face mask / covering, a medical certificate will need to be provided to evidence this.

This policy applies indefinitely to a Pandemic or other State of Emergency until the MMA otherwise provides written communication to the Melbourne Market.

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