

Health and Safety Toolbox Talk No: 149

Wearing of a face covering during Covid-19 (Coronavirus)



Please see details at the bottom of this Toolbox Talk regarding where face coverings should be worn.

A face covering can be something similar to the diagram below or as simple as a scarf or bandana that ties behind the head.

Face coverings are most relevant for short periods indoors in crowded areas, for example, on public transport, or sharing a vehicle.

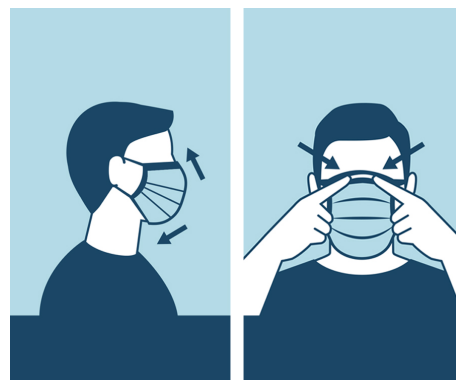
Face coverings do not remove the need for social distancing, and this should be maintained wherever possible.

Additionally, face coverings are not PPE – they are not the same as face masks. Masks should only be worn where the risk assessment or COSHH assessment states it is a requirement. Wearing a face covering may provide some protection for others you come into close contact with but not necessarily those wearing it.

You should be prepared to remove your face covering if asked to do so by police officers and police staff for the purposes of identification.

The face covering should:

- Cover the nose and go under the chin
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ear loops or straps around the head
- Be washed daily. It can go in with other laundry, using your normal detergent.
- Be kept in a sealable clean waterproof bag, for example, a Ziplock bag
- Changed if it becomes wet or soiled





Taking a cloth face covering off:

- Remove from behind your ears / head – do not touch the front of the mask
- Put in a sealable clean waterproof bag or wash immediately
- Clean your hands properly

You should replace any face covering if:

- Ripped or torn on the fabric
- No longer covers the nose and mouth
- Cannot stay on the face
- Has stretched out or damaged straps

REMEMBER:

Do:

- Clean your hands properly before you put it on
- Practice using it so you are comfortable putting it on and taking it off
- Make sure it is comfortable to wear and fits well

Do not:

- Touch a face covering while wearing it – if you do, clean your hands properly.
- Share face coverings
- Lower your face coverings to speak, eat, drink and smoke or vape – if you need to uncover your nose or mouth, take the face covering off and put it in the bag for used face coverings
- Discard face coverings in public places
- Wear one if you have any breathing difficulties
- Wear if it affects other aspects e.g. wearing of other PPE
- Play games or pranks with them





Face coverings: when to wear one

In England, you must wear a face covering in the following indoor settings. A face covering is not PPE. If your Risk Assessments states a mask must be worn, then you would wear a mask.

You are expected to wear a face covering before entering any of these settings below and must keep it on until you leave unless there is a reasonable excuse for removing it or you are exempt:

- public transport
- taxis and private hire vehicles
- transport hubs
- shops and supermarkets
- shopping centres
- auction houses
- premises providing hospitality
- post offices, banks, building societies, high-street solicitors and accountants, credit unions, short-term loan providers, savings clubs and money service businesses
- estate and lettings agents
- theatres
- premises providing personal care and beauty treatments
- premises providing veterinary services
- visitor attractions and entertainment venues
- libraries and public reading rooms
- places of worship
- funeral service providers
- community centres, youth centres and social clubs
- exhibition halls and conference centres
- public areas in hotels and hostels
- storage and distribution facilities
- You should also wear a face covering in indoor places not listed here where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact* with people you do not normally meet.
- In situations where a Pinnacle colleague is meeting with a customer face-to-face in an enclosed space where social distancing is not possible, colleagues must wear a face covering for the duration of the meeting
- Face coverings are needed in NHS settings, including hospitals and primary or community care settings, such as GP surgeries. They are also advised to be worn in care homes.
- Face coverings should be considered by all members of staff in the vehicle, unless they are exempt from wearing one or if the wearing of a covering impedes a driver's vision or causes a distraction





** A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). For example, a contact can be:*

- people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19*
- sexual partners*
- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
being coughed on
having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact*
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes*
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19*

In addition, your client may wish to implement additional controls in certain premises. These should be discussed with the Contract Manager and the relevant risk assessment amended accordingly. These premises are likely to include, but not limited to, the following settings:

- Care and Support
- Schools
- Independent living
- Sheltered accommodation
- Hostels
- NHS settings
- Joint Services

