

RESTAURANT & CATERING AUSTRALIA REGULATIONS AS TO FACE MASKS – NATION-WIDE 3 AUGUST 2020

Background:

Due to the worsening COVID-19 pandemic across state and territories in Australia, several state government leaders have recommended and in some states, mandated, that residents and staff in hospitality businesses wear masks and/or face coverings to mitigate the risk of transmission. For instance:

1. In Victoria, the Andrews Government announced that from 11.59pm on Wednesday 22 July 2020, all Victorians living in the metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire must wear a face covering, unless you have a lawful reason for not doing so. This directive has now been extended to include regional Victoria, taking effect from 11.59pm on Sunday 2 August 2020.
2. In New South Wales, the Berejiklian Government has “strongly recommended” residents wear face masks and/or face coverings in the following high-risk public settings:
 - a. Indoor settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain (e.g., supermarkets and public transport);
 - b. Indoor settings where there is a higher risk of transmission, such as in restaurants, cafes, pubs and clubs and venues involving high level customer interaction; and
 - c. When attending places of worship.

The General Health Advice on Masks

Noting that the specific requirements for face masks and/or coverings will vary according to each state and territory, the general health advice on masks are as follows:

- The use of masks have proven to be effective, provided that they are used correctly
- Masks can be single-use or washable and re-usable fabric
- Masks with holes and/or a valve are discouraged as they do not provide adequate protection
- Single use masks should only be purchased directly from reputable retail outlets, such as chemists and hardware stores
- For adequate protection, re-usable cloth masks should be made with multiple layering, ideally from at least three layers of breathable fabric
- It is recommended that for re-usable cloth masks be washed after each use, or at least once per day. Masks should be carried in a tight, zip lock bag
- While a N95 and/or P2 mask provides adequate protection, it is not necessary to purchase these type of masks as these are pre-dominantly for the use of health care workers

- The face mask, or covering, should cover both your nose and face and fit securely around your face (i.e., sit snugly under your chin, the bridge of your nose and the sides of your face)
- Do not touch the mask while you are wearing it. If you do, you must ensure that you wash and/or sanitise your hands
- Notwithstanding the use of masks, people must continue to adhere to the 1.5 metre rule