

Infrastructure and Assets

Information for Contractors: PPE advice when working in WMH Facilities during periods of elevated risk of community transmission of COVID-19

Within the West Moreton Health service area, the risk of community transmission of COVID-19 is currently classified as moderate. Consistent with this recent increase in risk classification, changes in advice relating to PPE usage by healthcare staff, patients and visitors have been made (effective from Monday 31st August).

During the period of this direction:

- A surgical mask and protective eyewear should be worn when providing routine care to all patients in West Moreton. This includes any staff member or contractor who may come into contact with patients.
- All patients and visitors must now wear surgical masks while in any West Moreton Health facility (Ipswich Hospital, rural hospitals, the City and Health Plazas, The Park, community and mental health facilities, Prison Health).
- In addition, if you are working anywhere else, (e.g. Hayden Centre, all admin areas at the Park), and, under your COVID safe workplace plan you cannot maintain 1.5m physical distance from colleagues, you should use a mask.

Contractors are to observe the following recommendations when using masks

- Masks should be changed when they become damaged, soiled or wet - or after 4hours.
- Masks should never be reapplied after they have been removed.
- Masks should not be left dangling around the neck.
- Avoid touching/adjusting the front of a mask while wearing it.
- Hand hygiene should be performed upon touching or discarding a used mask.
- Masks need to be removed for eating and drinking and this is permitted, necessary and safe. It is important to limit the duration that the mask is removed to help minimise any potential risk of exposure. Practise physical distancing when on meal breaks when a mask is not in place.
- Dispose of used masks in a designated waste bin as soon as they are removed

Surgical masks

How to wear a mask

- Clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub (made up of over 60% alcohol or 70% isopropanol) before you put on your mask.
- Hold the mask by its tapes or loops, then tie the mask around your head or put the loops around your ears.
- Make sure the mask completely covers your mouth and nose, and that there are no gaps between your face and the mask. If you are using a surgical mask, press the nose piece around your nose.

If you are using a mask with ear loops, you can use a plastic clip or tie to join the ends together at the back of your head to make sure it fits securely on your face.

Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth or the front of the mask while wearing it.

If the mask gets soiled or damp, replace it with a new one.

Dispose of a single-use mask correctly

When disposing of a mask, put it in a sealable bag to ensure the used mask won't be touched by others. Then put the sealed bag in the bin.

Always clean your hands immediately after removing your mask and putting it in the bin.

West Moreton Health would like to remind everyone how important it is to stay home if you are sick.

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, get tested and stay home until you receive a negative result.

Experiencing any of these symptoms? Get tested.

The infographic features a dark blue background with a white border. At the top, the text 'Experiencing any of these symptoms? Get tested.' is written in white and green. Below this, there are seven circular icons in green, each representing a symptom. The icons are arranged in two rows: the first row has four icons (Fever, Cough, Sore throat, Fatigue) and the second row has three icons (Runny nose, Shortness of breath, Loss of smell and/or taste). Each icon is accompanied by its corresponding symptom name in white text below it.

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Runny nose
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of smell and/or taste

Please refer to the link provided for latest Queensland Government Coronavirus (COVID-19) information: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>