

INFORMATION FOR CFMEU MEMBERS RE RESUMPTION OF WORK FROM 31 JULY 2021

Members returning to work from 31 July 2021 are advised that all construction sites will need to have a Covid-19 Response plans and implement safety measures to remain operating.

What is coronavirus (COVID-19)

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can make you sick. They cause illnesses that can range from the common cold to more severe diseases.

COVID-19 is a disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that emerged in December 2019.

Symptoms

People who are infected with coronavirus can have mild COVID-19 illness, whilst others have no symptoms at all. In some cases, COVID-19 can lead to respiratory failure, lasting lung and heart muscle damage, nervous system problems, kidney failure or death. COVID-19 symptoms are:

- Fever (37.5° or higher), or chills
- flu-like symptoms such as cough, sore throat and runny nose
- shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)
- loss of taste, or smell

Other reported symptoms include:

- Fatigue
- Acute blocked nose (congestion)
- Muscle, or joint pain
- Headache
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea / vomiting
- Loss of appetite

Unexplained chest pain and conjunctivitis have also been reported as symptoms of COVID-19, whilst in more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia with sever acute respiratory distress.

How it spreads

It can be spread from person to person and is diagnosed with a laboratory test. The virus is most likely spread through:

- Close contact with an infectious person
- Contact with droplets from an infected person when they breathe, talk, laugh, sing, cough or sneeze.
- Touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have cough or sneeze droplets from an infected person, and then touching your mouth or face.

How can we help prevent the spread of coronavirus?

Practising good hand hygiene, physical distancing and mask-wearing are essential to preventing COVID-19.

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Site Requirements

On site builders and subcontractors will need to comply with Government regulations regarding:

- QR Code entry to site and checking that workers are permitted on site if subject to specific health orders relating to Local Government Areas
- Contact tracing – Contact Harald
- Social distancing
- Travel around and between sites
- Mask wearing
- The movement of workers on site including in hoists
- Cleaning
- Proper consultation with workers

QR Codes

QR Codes will be implemented on all projects and sites will have in place checking systems.

Deliveries

Deliveries will aim to be contactless where practicable at all times.

Physical Distancing Measures

Depending on the nature of the site, its size and the stage it is at, sites will implement such measures as:

- Establish physical distancing protocols for meetings, break periods, site amenities, general access and exit including stairways, lifts, evacuation routes and muster points.
- Create additional meal facilities and amenities in outdoor, open fresh air environments within the confines of the site. This may include covered areas on ground level, or on floors of buildings that are structurally complete and otherwise safe but have no facade restricting flow of fresh air.
- Review work practices and areas of work, in addition to site amenities, where 4m² is difficult to achieve (unless other legislated WHS requirements apply, e.g. working in confined spaces).
- Conduct a task risk assessment to identify control measures necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when 1.5 metre physical distancing cannot be adhered to. For essential work activities where physical distancing is problematic, establish clearly documented processes of control and approval.
- Limit hoist movements to teams who are working together and, where practicable, have teams work only on specified floors for their whole shift to avoid the need to move around the site. This will also assist contact tracing in terms of where workers worked and minimise impact to the broader site.
- Monitor entry and exit points to maintain physical distancing and prevent over-crowding, including but not limited to provision of supervision, line marking, clear signage, video communications / doorbell.
- Encourage workers to drive to work and avoid public transport. Workers must not carpool unless they are from the same residential address or have no other choice. This will be where practical and depend on the site location.

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Contact Tracing- Contact Harald

On bigger sites many builders will be implementing contact tracing software using Contact Harald, where practicable. It's been trialled and used successfully in Victoria. It is designed to assist in contact tracing on site should a positive case be identified by NSW Health and works in the following way:

- Each worker, staff member and visitor will be given an access card.
- The card is set up specifically for each person with the only personal information provided in the system is the person's name, mobile number and email address.
- The card holder will be required to carry the card on them all day including from when they leave home, whilst conducting any activities on site and until returning home each day. The reason for this is to pick up whether you travel to and from work each day with another worker and as such be a close contact outside of work.
- The card does not track your movements but only picks up and records your proximity to another person with a card and they work off Bluetooth which is how the cards talk to each other.
- Should anyone be confirmed as a positive COVID case, we are able to access the data on your card and quickly identify all close contacts on site and send them a text message to notify them.
- All cards continuously store data for no more than 20 days and data is uploaded automatically to receivers positioned at certain locations around the site. This data is then stored on the cloud from these receivers for no more than 28 days in line with NSW Health requirements.

OTHER INFORMATION

- If you feel unwell, for whatever reason, please exercise extreme caution and stay away from work until you have recovered.
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, get tested immediately.
- If you are living with a person who has been contacted by NSW Health advising them that they are a close contact and instructed to get tested immediately, then you should go and get tested as soon as you are made aware of this.
- If you are identified by NSW Health as a close or casual contact, then you must follow the advice provided to you in terms of testing, isolation, etc.
- If you have been to an exposure site listed on the NSW Health website titled NSW Health Latest COVID-19 case locations and alerts in NSW, then you must follow the advice provided for that location in terms of testing, location, etc.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, you will be required to follow the instructions of NSW Health in terms of testing and isolation period and can only return to work when cleared by NSW Health.

For more information

The situation with COVID-19 is changing regularly and site plans will need to be updated. Speak to the site delegate, safety committee member or HSRs on site if you question.

If you are concerned for your health, call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

If you require translating or interpreting services, call 131 450. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, you could also call Service NSW 24 hours, 7 days a week on 13 77 88.

For the latest advice, information and resources, go to www.health.gov.au

If you have concerns about your health, please speak to your doctor.