

Instructions for the use of protective masks

Starting 31 July, it is mandatory to maintain a 2 meter distance between individuals. In situations where it is not possible to maintain a 2 meter distance, the use of a protective mask that covers the mouth and nose is necessary.

- When it is possible to ensure a distance of 2 meters between individuals, there is no need to use a protective mask and the general use of a mask in public spaces is not mandated.
- Protective masks do not replace general infection control measures that should always be in place:
 - Hand washing, general hygiene and sanitization of contact surfaces
- Protective masks do not replace the 2 meter rule in shops and places of entertainment

Protective masks must be used:

- Aboard all scheduled flights, domestic and international
- Aboard passenger ferries if it is not possible to have a distance of 2 meters between individuals
 - Please note that it is not necessary to wear a mask if the passenger is sitting in their own enclosed vehicle while aboard the ferry.
- Aboard all other means of public transport, if there is no plan made to keep a distance of 2 meters between individuals
 - It is extremely important to use a mask on the bus from the airport, after the first COVID-19 test at the border and on longer trips by bus.
 - For trips within the city that are less than 30 minutes, a mask is not required.
 - Individuals at risk should take special care to wear a mask.
- During services that require closeness of individuals (i.e. grooming, massage, physiotherapy, dentistry, ophthalmology and home nursing care.
- In all other situations, protective masks do not replace the restriction on the amount of individuals allowed to gather nor do they replace the 2 meter rule.

Children born after 2005 are not required to wear protective masks.

Healthcare workers are required to wear appropriate protective equipment.

The use of protective masks in special circumstances

Protective masks work by catching droplets coming from the individual's airway and keep these droplets from spreading around the environment. Used protective masks are therefore highly contaminated with microorganisms found in these droplets. Therefore special care must be taken when using a protective mask, when touching them and it is important to remember to replace the mask if it becomes damp or damaged in any way. After contact with a used protective mask, it is important to wash hands or use sanitizer.

It is best to use disposable protective masks that are thrown away in the general waste bin and to wash hands or use alcohol sanitizer after any contact with the mask. It is best to use the protective mask for a maximum of 4 accumulated hours of continuous use and then discard the mask.

Reusable masks may also be used, but they must be made from a material that can be washed and they must be washed at least once a day. As with disposable masks, they should be touched

as little as possible and hands should be washed or sanitized after touching them. Further information regarding the use of such masks will be available in the near future.

Please note:

- General use of masks in public places is not recommended
- A damp and dirty mask is useless and can increase the risk of infection
- Disposable masks that are used more than once are useless and may increase the risk of infection
- A protective mask that does not cover both the nose and the mouth is useless
- A protective mask worn on the forehead or under the chin is useless

Guidelines from the European Working Group regarding protective masks:

(PDF here)