

COVID-19

BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

for building & construction

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
MBANSW.ASN.AU/COVID19

Please note this is a best practice guide only

v5_23/721



**Master
Builders
Association**
New South Wales



COVID-19

the law

Under the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws employers have a duty of care for the health and safety of their workers and others at the workplace. This includes:

- Providing and maintaining a work environment without risk to health and safety, and
- Providing and maintaining adequate facilities for workers in carrying out their work.

As an employer / PCBU you must identify risks at the workplace (in consultation with all interested parties), and where possible eliminate or minimise those risks to as low as is reasonably practicable.

the risk

All persons in the building and construction industry are at risk of exposure to COVID-19.

As a PCBU, you must do what is reasonably practicable to keep your workers a safe distance apart.

Control measures need to be implemented that mitigate risks associated with exposure to COVID-19, even if that means delays or disruptions to the project schedule.

MANAGING THE RISK

Stay away

- No person with any health symptoms should come to work or be allowed on site.
- No person who has been a contact of a person with COVID should come to work or be allowed on site until NSW Health advice permits them to leave isolation.

Travelling to site and arriving on site

- No car pooling. Only travel with someone from the same household.
- Do not congregate at arrival points. Social distancing must be adhered to.
- Confirm that each person arriving has no symptoms or contacts with a COVID case
- Every person arriving on site must check in with a QR code using the Service NSW App. Place QR code posters every 2m along boundary fence to avoid crowding.
- Processes for arrival on site should be done without causing congregation or close contact with a person undertaking checks. Social distancing should apply.

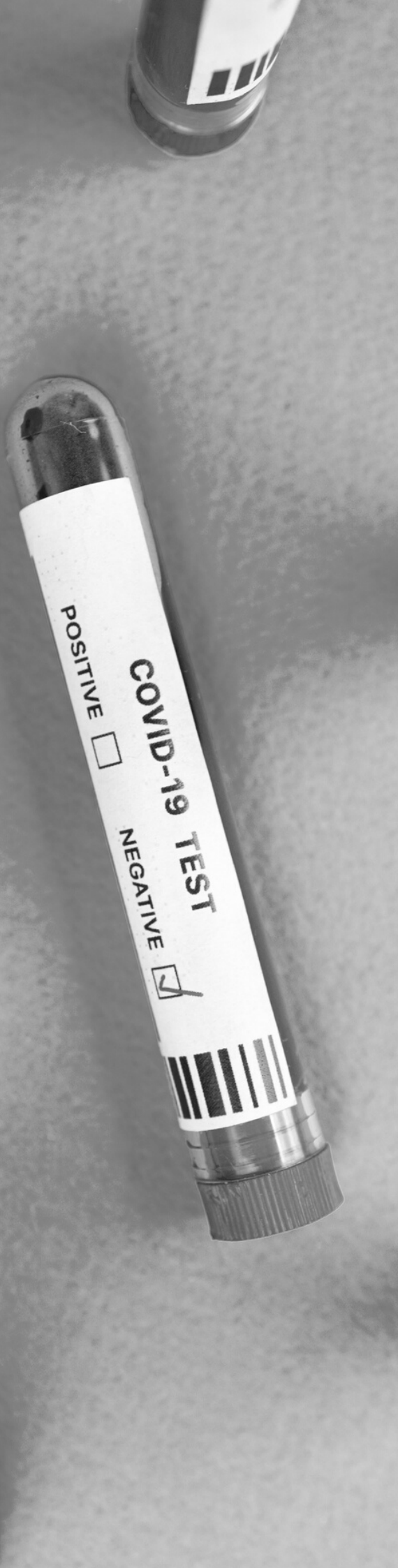
Keeping track of contacts

- Contract Tracing: If there is good information about interactions on site (document all relevant information regarding work related interaction on site), NSW Health can trace contacts and determine how a site can keep operating or reopen if there is a COVID case on site.
- QR codes (who is allowed in what area) or for separate areas of a site can be useful, including meal areas, but mainly for indoor areas and only if it does not cause congregation at check-in points.
- Any other records of people and teams mixing or working separately can assist NSW Health.
- No go zone (restricted zones) for designated areas to separate trades



COVID Testing

- Anyone who has had a COVID test because they have symptoms or close contact with a confirmed COVID case is required to isolate for 14 days and cannot attend site until advised by NSW Health.
- From 23 July 2021, if you live in Fairfield, Liverpool, Canterbury-Bankstown, Blacktown or the Cumberland local government areas you cannot leave the local government area that you live in for work unless you are an authorised worker. Currently construction and building workers are not listed as authorised workers.
- Workers will be required to provide proof of residential address and evidence of a COVID test (which may include an SMS text message or email from the testing organisation).
- People who have evidence of a surveillance test for travel (work related journeys) are permitted to attend site prior to getting test results, if they do not have symptoms or have a close contact.
- Note: While not required by the Public Health Order (regulatory requirements), it is best practice that, for the first test they are required to take, people from restricted LGAs wait until they receive a negative test before attending site. This will reduce the risk of introducing an infection to a site.
- From 19 July 2021, workers from Greater Sydney must undertake surveillance testing every 7 days as a prerequisite for attending work at sites more than 50km outside Greater Sydney. Any person from Greater Sydney arriving on a regional site will require evidence of a test. People who have proof of residential address and evidence of a surveillance test(s) can attend site(s) prior to receiving test results if they do not have symptoms or have been a close contact. It is preferable workers wait until a negative result is received first, however a secondary test will be required should symptoms appear.
- Some sites may establish additional testing on site. In the case of a rapid antigen detection test, a person with a positive result should isolate immediately and get a standard COVID test (NSW Health).





Masks

- Masks are mandatory at all indoor workplaces.
- Masks are strongly recommended (best practice) when you are outdoors in areas of construction sites, except when an exemption applies such as when
 - wearing a face mask creates a safety issue or
 - there is a worksite emergency.
- Surgical style masks are acceptable if there are no other safety or PPE requirements (e.g. hazardous dust).

Worker interaction and segregation – Social distancing

- Wherever reasonably practicable, create separate zones on sites to segregate (restrict) contractors work activities to minimise risk of cross contamination
- Wherever possible, create split shifts and avoid overlap between teams.
- If split shifts are not possible, staggered start and finish times will allow separation at arrival points on site.

Meal areas

- Lunchrooms pose a particular risk as they are often indoors, where people congregate in a confined area food and drink and shelter from the elements (inclement weather conditions). The following would apply:
 - Suggest lunch breaks are staggered
 - Limit the number of people in a meal area at any time
 - Wherever possible, create additional meal areas to reduce the number of people gathering.
 - Provide extra facilities to mitigate workers moving outside designated zones.
 - Additional meal areas should be in outdoor or fresh air environments wherever possible. This might include well ventilated areas, or on levels of buildings that are structurally sound and otherwise safe, but open to fresh air



Hoists and Lifts

- Limit the need to use hoists by assigning teams to particular floors or areas for their shift.
- As far as possible, do not mix between teams in hoists and lifts.
- Masks must be worn in hoists and lifts.
- Limit worker numbers to ensure social distancing compliance.

COVID Marshalls

- Designated COVID Marshalls (appointed by the principle contractor) will monitor entry points and levels/areas to ensure compliance.
- COVID marshalls to monitor workers health and wellbeing (and have the authority to take action).
- Remedial action to be taken in accordance with COVID site safety plan (emergency procedures).

Vaccinations

- Provide contractors and workers with information of designated vaccination clinics and centres in the geographical area
- Keep an accurate vaccine register (maintained)
- All workers who have received a second dose shall produce a vaccine digital certificate or show evidence within the Service NSW app.
- All workers who are vaccinated are required to provide evidence which they can produce from either the Service NSW app, or by getting a vaccination statement from the Australian Immunisation Register.

Further Information

National Coronavirus Health Information line:

1800 020 080

NSW Health Website – COVID-19 (Coronavirus):

[NSW Department of Health – Coronavirus FAQ's](#)

Master Builders NSW COVID-19 Information webpage:

www.mbansw.asn.au/covid19