

Wash hands regularly. Don't touch your face. Practice social distancing.

Surgical Masks for Close Proximity Work Within 2 Metres - Common rail industry principles

Social distancing, regular hand washing and the use of hand sanitiser are the most effective way to stop the spread of the virus.

Masks bring their own risks and those using them will need to be made fully aware of these.

Masks should not be issued to any task that can be done whilst maintaining social distancing. Social distancing and hand hygiene are still the primary controls and advice from PHE.

We are providing surgical face masks (BS EN14683:2019 'standard' surgical type I or II mask (3 layers)) as one final tool to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. When used properly and alongside other protective measures, these masks can help to safeguard colleagues.

The following principles should be followed when considering the introduction of a face mask:

- Eliminating all unnecessary work. Provision of a mask should not be a reason to restart tasks which are currently suspended e.g. some normal forms of driver training or assessment.
- Minimising work that must be done within 2 metres. Both less work and changes to methods to avoid being within 2 metres.
- Requirement for staff to discuss their circumstances through a local risk assessment process.
- Wearing and disposing of the mask in accordance with its instructions.
- Appropriate management and supervision is put in place.

Surgical masks:

- Are provided to provide mutual assurance between colleagues that they will not transmit the virus to the other person when working closely within 2 metres.
- Will be available for tasks identified by the organisation's risk assessment and in particular where tasks cannot maintain 2 metre distancing.
- Local assessment will be carried out to determine the number of masks required based on the task, length of time and environment.
- Masks should not be worn for longer than the manufacturer guidelines and must be replaced once wet inside.

Usage of masks to follow the following guidelines:

- Strict hand hygiene immediately before use.
- Strict hand hygiene immediately after use.
- Waste control by placing used mask into a bag where it is tied off and placed in another bag for 72 hrs before collection.

If your usual work task requires a personal protective mask, continue to utilise that mask. **Do not** replace it with a surgical mask.