

Explanatory Note:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidelines for the Building and Construction Industry Victoria (Revision 6) 28 July 2020

Revision 6 of the COVID-19 Guidelines have been released.

1. These Guidelines have been revised to incorporate the new regulations approved under the OHS Act on 28 July 2020. The Regulations provide that employers are required to notify WorkSafe immediately on becoming aware that an employee or an independent contractor or a contractor's employee has received a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis and has attended the workplace during the infectious period.

Self-employed persons are also required to directly inform WorkSafe immediately on receiving a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis if they have attended the workplace during the infectious period.

The infectious period begins on the date 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms or a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis (whichever comes first), until the day on which the person receives a clearance from isolation from the DHHS.

Notify WorkSafe on 13 23 60. See section 3.15.

2. Revision 6 clarifies that in some cases a worker who has been in casual contact (as distinct from 'close contact') with a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19), may be required to be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) in circumstances where it is considered prudent to do so having regard to the details of the contact. If in doubt contact the Industry Liaison Officer. This reflects the current practice in the industry which is working well. Transmission control measures are so important. See section 3.18.

3. This Revision also emphasises the importance of Temperature Testing - see section 3.1.7. Whilst this Guideline is not mandated, there are very few circumstances where Temperature Testing at the gate cannot be conducted. Again, this is an important measure - make it compulsory where you can.

4. Revision 6 clarifies the need for a worker to get tested if they experience symptoms. See section 3.16.

5. Revision 6 communicates the Government's one-off \$300 payment available to support Victorian workers if they are required to self-isolate while they wait for the results of a Coronavirus (COVID-19) test. The COVID-19 worker support payment recognises that the requirement to self-isolate or quarantine at home can cause a financial burden for some individuals and families who are without incomes during this period. See section 4.10.2.