

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Friday, 9 October 2020

EXTRA FACE MASKS FROM LOCAL SUPPLIERS TO BEAT CORONAVIRUS

The Victorian Government is supporting local manufacturing while helping to drive down coronavirus numbers with more than one million additional reusable masks ordered to help protect Victorians.

An order of 1.2 million reusable masks has been placed with six Victorian companies accredited by Ethical Clothing Australia to help in the fight against this deadly virus.

The masks will be distributed to our frontline workers and vulnerable communities, and they'll be made by Nobody Denim in Thornbury, The Ark/Thread Group in Burwood, Bluegum in Nunawading, Aquaterro in Pakenham, Styleprint in Kilsyth and Australian Defence Apparel in Thomastown and Bendigo.

The first batch of masks is expected to be delivered from next week, with all masks to be delivered before Christmas.

Around 700,000 masks will be distributed to local government offices, health centres, pharmacies and general practices, as well as disability service providers, home and community care services and mental health services. The remainder will go to the Government's stockpile to be accessed as necessary.

The masks will be available to Victorians with chronic or complex health conditions, people with a disability, people in high-density living arrangements and other vulnerable groups.

Since July, the Government has distributed more than 3.6 million single use and almost 2.1 million re-usable masks.

As we safely start to reopen Victoria and reach a COVID Normal, it's more important than ever that we take every precaution to protect ourselves and others from coronavirus, which is why from next Monday all Victorians will need to wear a fitted face mask.

Face shields, bandanas or scarves, which were previously allowed but not recommended as face coverings, will now no longer be permitted.

A face mask with three layers is the recommended option, as it provides the best protection for the wearer and others, they come in to contact with.

Lawful excuses for not wearing a face mask will still apply and they include; infants and children under the age of 12, a person who is affected by a relevant medical condition, including problems with their breathing, a serious condition of the face and a disability or a mental health condition.

For more information on masks and exemptions that may apply call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 or visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"This order will ensure people who need them most have access to a mask to keep them and their loved ones safe."

"Masks have been a critical part of reducing the spread of coronavirus and will be even more important as restrictions ease and people will start moving more freely in the community."

Quote attributable to Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula

"The ability of Victorian manufacturers to adapt and produce the goods that we need in a pandemic has been remarkable. These companies are at the forefront of those efforts."