

May 7, 2020

Base Plant increases mandatory mask usage

Starting **Tuesday, May 12**, we will expand the requirement of masks or face coverings to include **all areas where physical distancing of two (2) metres or physical barriers are not assured**.

Alberta Health Services suggests masks or face coverings as an additional level of protection to ensure the safety of yourself and others against the COVID-19 virus, and we're making masks a requirement now that we have a more readily available supply.

This approach does not take away existing protocols and procedures. You must continue to follow physical distancing guidelines and any specific requirements within your working area. This includes following the seating requirements in light vehicles.

While it's difficult to plan for every scenario, guidelines have been developed to provide direction on where a mask is mandatory and where it will be optional.

Mandatory:

- Transportation with more than one occupant (seating configurations are still in place). This includes when both boarding and exiting the vehicle.
- High-traffic areas where 2m physical distancing cannot be assured, such as:
 - Kitchen areas, coffee stations and camp dining areas (and when walking to/from these areas)
 - Locker/change rooms, washrooms, and boot rooms
 - Permit areas and tool cribs
 - Indoor hallways, walking to offices/meeting rooms, and on outdoor walkways where 2 m physical distancing cannot be maintained
 - Gathering areas for mass transportation (bussing) and when walking to these areas
 - When using common work stations
- At high-touchpoint areas, where airborne particles could be surface transferred to others

Optional*:

- When standing at a bus stop if physical distancing can be maintained
- Office spaces, cubicles and meeting rooms where >2m distancing or barriers can be maintained
- Control rooms where >2m distancing or barriers can be maintained
- Mobile equipment/light vehicle with single occupancy
- As a pedestrian, only if >2m physical distancing can be maintained. A mask must be available to wear at all times.

You must carry a mask on your person at all times to ensure you are prepared to wear it if needed.

**Note: The optional requirements become mandatory if the two-metre physical distancing is not assured.*

Mask Guidance

Ear loop masks or natural fiber face coverings can be used in operating areas to protect against COVID hazard. Half-masks, or Full-face respirators can be used for COVID and other workplace hazards.

Workers are responsible for cleaning their face coverings on a regular basis according to directions.

We appreciate your patience and support as we continue to respond to this dynamic situation and evolve our protocols and practices. Please speak to your leader if you have questions.

Thank you.