When do you need to wear a face covering or face mask?

September 2020

This is Easy Read information about when to wear a face covering.

Face coverings are sometimes also called face masks.

This information is about how face coverings will help to stop the spread COVID-19.
COVID-19 is a virus that can make people very sick.

New Zealand has 4 COVID-19 Alert Levels:

- Alert Level 1
- Alert Level 2
- Alert Level 3
- Alert Level 4.

The risk of people spreading COVID-19 is bigger at:

- Alert Level 2
- Alert Level 3
- Alert Level 4.
The different Alert Levels tell us when we must or should wear face coverings.

You can wear a face covering whenever you want to.
Wear a face coverings on public transport

If you are 12 years old or more you **must** wear a **face covering** while using **public transport**.

**Public transport** means:

- buses
- trains
- ferries.

If you are travelling on a **plane** you **must** also wear a face covering or face mask.
Your **driver** must wear a face covering when you are in a:

- taxi
- Uber.

The rules about wearing face coverings on public transport is for when we are at:

- Alert Level 2
- Alert Level 3
- Alert Level 4.
You **do not** have to wear a face covering if you do not want to:

- on school buses
- in taxis
- in Ubers
- on a group bus tour where everyone knows each other
- on the Interislander ferry – the ferry that goes between Wellington and Picton.
- on planes where you did not have to buy a ticket because you know the person who owns the plane.
Wear a face covering in places where there are lots of people

It is a good idea to wear face coverings in places where you cannot physically distance from other people in:

- Alert Level 2
- Alert Level 3
- Alert Level 4

To physically distance means need to stay 2 metres or more away from people you do not know.

2 metres is about as long as a bed.
This may mean wearing a face covering in:

- shops / supermarkets
- places where there are lots of people.
At Alert Level 1 you do not need to wear a face covering.

This is because there does not seem to be any community transmission of COVID-19.

Community transmission is when people have COVID-19 but we do not know where they got it from.

It means people could catch COVID-19 when they are doing things like:

- going shopping
- using a bus.

You can wear a face covering at Alert Level 1 if you want to.
At Alert Level 2 there will be some places that you need to wear a face covering.

1. You **must** wear a face covering when using public transport.

   See page 6 for more information.

2. It is a **good idea** to wear a face covering if you **cannot physically distance**.

   See page 7 for more information.
At Alert Level 2 children and young people do not need to wear face coverings:

- at school
- when on the school bus.

Teachers do not need to wear face coverings.
Wearing face coverings in Alert Level 3

In Alert Level 3 most people must stay at home to stop the spread of COVID-19.

In Alert Level 3 there will be lots of places where you should wear a face covering.

1. You must wear a face covering when using public transport.

   See page 6 for more information.

2. You must to wear a face covering if you cannot physically distance.

   See page 7 for more information.
In Alert Level 3 you should wear a face covering when you go to places like the:

- supermarket
- pharmacy
- markets.

You should wear a face covering in places where there are lots of people.
Wearing face coverings in Alert Level 4

In Alert Level 4 most people must stay at home to stop the spread of COVID-19.

If you do need to go out during Alert Level 4 you should wear a face covering whenever you leave your home.

This means wearing face covering if they leave your home to do things like:

- go to the supermarket
- go to the pharmacy
- exercise
- go on public transport.
If you need help to understand any of the information in this fact sheet you can call the **People First New Zealand helpline**.

The People First New Zealand helpline is **0800 20 60 70**

You will be asked to leave a message with your:

- first and last name
- phone number.

The People First New Zealand helpline is free to call.

This means it will not cost you any money to call the helpline.
You can also email People First New Zealand on **ask@peoplefirst.org.nz**

A People First worker will call or email you back.
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