



# National COVID-19 Community Protection Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia

The measures for responding to COVID-19 at base-level, Tier 1 and Tier 2 represent a suite of measures and jurisdictions may implement any or all of them at their discretion, relevant to their epidemiological context, and in accordance with their legislative frameworks for responding to COVID-19. Strategies in Tier 1 and Tier 2 may be implemented at different times across different settings.

Base Level Strategies	Community wide	Individuals at Higher Risk <sup>1</sup>	Business Sector	High-risk settings <sup>4</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccination (COVID-19 &amp; Flu)</li> <li>Get a COVID-19 test if you have symptoms</li> <li>Register positive RAT results</li> <li>Positive cases - stay home until acute symptoms resolve, avoid high-risk/crowded settings and wear masks outside the home for at least 7 days</li> <li>Hand and respiratory hygiene</li> <li>Maximise time spent in well-ventilated spaces</li> <li>Close contacts - monitor for symptoms, avoid visiting individuals at higher risk, high-risk settings, recommend wearing masks indoors and on public transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals and their carers understand their risk for medically significant illness and have a plan in place with their GP</li> <li>Be aware of precautions<sup>2</sup> to reduce risk of exposure</li> <li>Get tested for COVID-19 as soon as symptoms develop to enable timely access to antiviral medications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise ventilation<sup>7</sup></li> <li>Business Continuity Plans in place</li> <li>Work, Health &amp; Safety Policies may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccination programs</li> <li>Staff stay at home when sick</li> <li>Mask wearing for recovered cases and close contacts</li> <li>Support hand/respiratory hygiene</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise ventilation<sup>7</sup></li> <li>Work, Health &amp; Safety Policies including vaccination requirements.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive cases not to attend work for 7 days</li> <li>Close contact: testing/mask wearing as per workforce guidance</li> </ul> </li> <li>Infection Prevention and Control<sup>5</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand/respiratory hygiene</li> <li>PPE including masks as per workforce guidance</li> <li>Staff training</li> </ul> </li> <li>Visitor policy               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symptom screening</li> <li>Close contacts RAT</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outbreak management               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan as per local health requirements</li> <li>Review and maintenance of plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Scaled Up Strategies</b>				
<b>Tier 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks on public transport and in high-risk settings</li> <li>Indoor mask wearing</li> <li>RATs for close contacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical masks or respirators (P2/N95) in public settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mask wearing for staff</li> <li>Maximise activity in outdoor/ well ventilated areas</li> <li>Support for cases, close contacts and vulnerable staff to work from home, if possible</li> </ul>	<b>High community prevalence and/or Outbreak</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outbreak Management Plan activated and scaled up<sup>6</sup></li> <li>Masks wearing for visitors<sup>6</sup></li> <li>Staff surveillance testing</li> <li>RAT screening of visitors<sup>6</sup></li> <li>Surge workforce, if required</li> <li>In-reach PCR/flu testing<sup>6</sup></li> <li>National Medical Stockpile – deployment of additional personal protective equipment if required<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Tier 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks in a range of public settings</li> <li>Gathering limits</li> <li>Isolation of cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid indoor public places with high risk of infection transmission<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity limits</li> <li>Work from home, where possible</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> Individuals over 70 years old, COVID-19 at-risk medical conditions or immunocompromised.

<sup>2</sup> For example, mask wearing, physical distancing, maximising well ventilated/outdoor settings to socialise.

<sup>3</sup> Indoor venues that involve singing, shouting, close-range conversations (e.g., bars, nightclubs), dancing and strenuous indoor physical activity.

<sup>4</sup> Includes aged care and disability care (residential and home), and hospital care settings.

<sup>5</sup> Implementation of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures determined by facility work, health & safety policies and IPC guidelines in accordance with local risk assessment.

<sup>6</sup> Aged care and disability residential care settings only. Visitors not required to wear masks at base level (so that residents can see faces). However, facilities will assess their own risk and may require visitor mask wearing at all times

<sup>7</sup> Consider published guidance to maximise natural and/or mechanical ventilation. <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/ventilation>