

## RESTAURANT & CATERING AUSTRALIA REGULATIONS AS TO FACE MASKS - VICTORIA 31 JULY 2020

### **Background:**

This month, the Andrews Government in Victoria announced that from 11.59pm on Wednesday 22 July 2020, all Victorians living in the metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire must wear a face covering, unless you have a lawful reason for not doing so. This directive was extended yesterday (30 July 2020) to now include regional Victoria, and is to take effect from **11.59pm on Sunday 2 August 2020**.

### **The Directives**

- The face mask, or covering, must cover both your nose and face.
- For adequate protection, it is recommended that you wear a mask with multiple layering
- You may be exempt from wearing a face mask if:
  - You have a medical condition which prevents you from doing so
  - You are engaging in strenuous exercise
  - You are not able to perform in your job while wearing a face mask
- Notwithstanding this directive, people must adhere to the 1.5 metre rule
- People who do not have an appropriate face covering without a valid reason may be fined \$200.00
- Children under 12 years of age are not required to wear a face mask

### **What this means for you, your business and your employees**

- You and your staff must wear a face mask or a face covering at all times, unless it is “unreasonable” for you not to do so
- Diners must wear a mask or face covering when entering the venue, however they can be removed once they are seated
- For kitchen staff, masks may be removed intermittently if they are tasting food and/or during service if it hinders their ability to perform their job
- For “back of house” staff, masks should not be used where in situations where it would likely result in an OH&S risk. For example:
  - Where wearing a mask would restrict vision when handling hot and/or dangerous items; and/or
  - Where wearing a mask would affect an employee’s ability to perform duties with sharp utensils such as knives.
- While the Andrews government has not confirmed its position as to whether masks would be classified as a “special clothing” under the *Restaurant Industry Award 2020*, it is likely that this is to



be the case. As such, employers are advised to provide an appropriate face covering to staff who do not own a mask.