

MAKING SPACE ON SITE: an industry guideline to manage COVID-19 on new housing sites



In line with national work, health and safety requirements and the current health and safety obligations to meet COVID-19 working arrangements, the residential (domestic) building industry commits to making space on site to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

HIA members will adopt the following principles on new residential (domestic) building sites:

1 Ensure the Government's social distancing criteria are met at all times by:

- Limiting access to any building site to **essential workers** involved in activity on the given day
- Applying the **1 person per 4 square metre** rule for work being undertaken in enclosed or internal spaces
- Limiting any **external visitors or third parties** (e.g. building inspections) to be by exception and at a time when no one else is on site apart from the builder and/or site supervisor
- Providing all **necessary clear work zones** and work stations for dedicated tasks

2 Ensure the Government's self-isolation rules are met at all times by:

- Keeping any person **displaying cold, flu or similar symptoms** away from sites until the symptoms have passed or a negative test is provided to the site supervisor
- Enforcing the **14 day self-isolation policy** for anyone returning from overseas or from interstate
- Keeping any person who has been in **close contact** and required to **self-isolate** off site

3 Ensure adequate hygiene facilities are provided on site for all workers by:

- Providing **adequate cleaning products and facilities** for all workers on site
- Implementing **regular handwashing schedules**
- Regularly (at least daily) **cleaning and disinfecting** of any common areas
- **Cleaning any shared tools/plant** before and after each use
- **Increasing ventilation** for building sites where internal work is being undertaken

4 Ensure all workers have access to appropriate safety equipment by:

- Providing all workers with **access to personal protective equipment** including gloves, masks and eye protection appropriate to the work they are performing on site

5 Manage project scheduling to minimise overlaps and numbers of people on site by:

- Implementing a '**no more than 6 workers on a house**' rule
- Scheduling sub-trades and work to **minimise people on site** and have **designated work zones** away from other workers performing different tasks
- Scheduling regulatory inspections and checks to implement a **one only on site check** (builder/manager and inspector)
- **Scheduling/staggering break times** for workers i.e. lunch and morning break to avoid on-site gatherings during these times

6 Facilitate contactless deliveries, payments and travelling out of peak times by:

- Going **contactless** as far as practicable with orders and site deliveries
- Maintaining work sites **operation times** to allow workers to travel to and from site in **off peak times**

7 Facilitate site inductions and updates on latest Government requirements by:

- Undertaking on-site inductions prior to permitting anyone on to site
- Conducting regular '**tool box**' discussions to enable workers to **stay informed** on risks and hazards including specifically about latest **Government COVID-19 updates**
- **Advising all workers** of the steps that will be taken should a person enter the site with the virus or advise the site supervisor that they have been in close contact.

8 Managing the customer by:

- Confirming **before entering a work site** that nobody else will be on site that has been overseas, is showing symptoms or has the virus