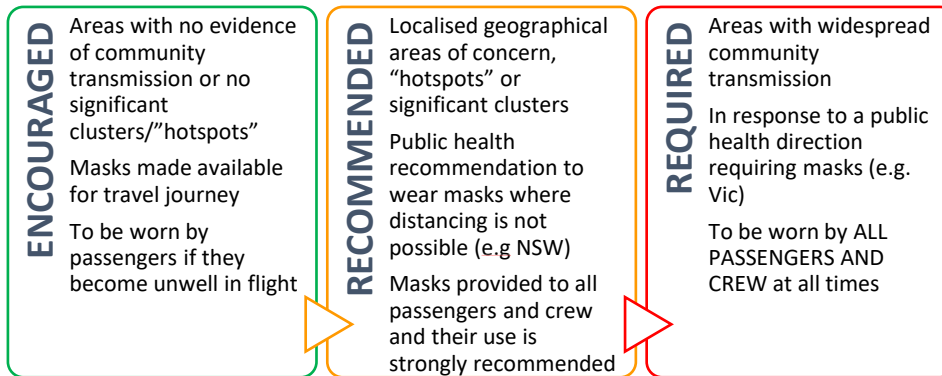


Airlines issue updated guidance on mask use for COVID-Safe Flying in Australia

Airlines for Australia and New Zealand (A4ANZ), has today issued updated guidance on the use of face masks/coverings for domestic air travel in Australia. The updated guidance provides travellers with greater certainty about what to expect when flying.

Under the new guidance, risk-based triggers have been applied, with three categories representing minimum expectations* regarding masks:



A4ANZ's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Alison Roberts said, "Our industry's approach to the managed resumption of domestic travel has always been to follow expert health advice. When the [COVID-Safe domestic passenger journey protocol](#) was developed together with the airports, we expected adaptations may be required as the situation changed. We took a risk-based approach from the start, with the health and safety of our passengers and staff paramount. That was evident with the industry's quick response to the changing health advice in Victoria, and it is again reflected in today's update" Dr Roberts said.

"As the COVID-19 pandemic has progressed, the body of evidence on the effectiveness of face coverings has grown, and global health and [aviation authorities](#) have been encouraging their use. What is really important to understand, however, is that this does not replace the need for other layers of risk reduction in the passenger journey."

While additional hygiene and other measures remain in place at all Australian airports and on-board flights, and the risk of in-flight transmission remains extremely low, passengers should remember that they can do their part to help reduce risk, including:

- Not flying if feeling unwell;
- Downloading the COVID-Safe app;
- Providing contact details;
- Checking in online and using digital boarding passes;
- Adopting hygiene measures such as frequent handwashing.

Airlines will continue to work collaboratively with stakeholders including airports and Government representatives, on policies and protocols to enable people to travel safely. Dr Roberts said, "With variable - and rapidly changing - border requirements and restrictions in place in different jurisdictions across Australia, these measures are critical for allowing people who need to travel, to do so with confidence."

*For operational and other reasons, airlines may take a different approach, e.g. Regional Express has mandated the use of masks across all flights in its network.