

FACE MASKS TO LIMIT SPREAD OF COVID-19: AN INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF GUIDANCE

HIQA REVIEWED THE GUIDANCE ON FACEMASK USE TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 FROM INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANISATIONS AND 22 COUNTRIES.

DURING THE PANDEMIC

Countries recommended face masks to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In Ireland, masks are still recommended on public transport and in healthcare settings.

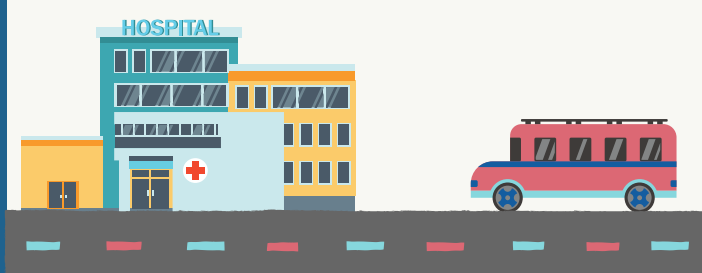


HIQA FOUND...

Generally, countries are recommending face masks for those at higher risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes when in crowded spaces (indoor and outdoor).

The ECDC recommend those who test positive or have symptoms, and the people they live with, should wear a mask in the household.

Most countries recommend the use of face masks on public transport and in healthcare settings.



"WHILE INTERNATIONAL GUIDANCE VARIES, OVERALL, THE GUIDANCE POINTS TOWARDS THE WEARING OF FACE MASKS IN ENVIRONMENTS OR SITUATIONS WHERE THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION IS HIGHEST. A SECOND THEME IN THE GUIDANCE IS THE WEARING OF FACE MASKS TO PROTECT THOSE AT HIGHEST RISK OF SEVERE OUTCOMES, BOTH BY THE INDIVIDUALS THEMSELVES AND THOSE THAT COME IN CONTACT WITH THEM."

Shelley O'Neill, HIQA Deputy Director of HTA

