THE COVID-19 SAFETY PLEDGE

SUPPRESSING VIRUS TRANSMISSION IS (Y)OUR BUSINESS

www.covidpledge.co.nz



We pledge to:



Protect our workers, service users and customers against COVID-19



Assess our workplace's physical environment and health and safety policies



Support staff so they can stay at home if unwell and if they test positive



Take Action to minimise the spread of infection at our workplace





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June 2020

Reducing transmission of SARS-CoV-2

Masks and testing are necessary to combat asymptomatic spread in aerosols

Masks reduce airborne transmission

Infectious aerosol particles can be released during breathing and speaking by asymptomatic infected individuals. No masking maximizes exposure, whereas universal masking results in the least exposure.



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Why The COVID-19 Safety Pledge Makes Sense

The COVID-19 Safety Pledge and Actions are motivated by the need to control the virus long-term by **suppressing transmission**. The evidence base below, based on research by scientists and engineers, outlines the case for action. References are provided throughout, including early signals from

pre-print findings where relevant to our rapidly improving understanding of the virus.

Benefits to your business or organisation

Studies show that protecting your workforce and customers against COVID-19 is an investment in your organisation and your people:

- reduce transmission by 74% with mechanical ventilation.
- reduce short term sick leave by up to 35% by improving ventilation from 12 to 24 L/s/person.
- reduce team sickness by 50% with universal masking.
- improve productivity by up to 8% by increasing ventilation from 10 to 20 L/s/person.
- show your customers your business or venue is COVID safe.
- display the Pledge and improve trust in your business.

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Actions to Suppress Transmission

Use airborne precautions to suppress transmission, encourage COVID safe behaviours and lead others. Action areas include: Ventilation, Filters, N95 Masks, UVC light, Testing, Isolation, Sensible mixing.

COVID Safe Places Suppress Transmission

COVID Safe Places Suppress Transmission



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COVID safe ventilation technique

Contents include:

- <u>Choosing appropriate ventilation methods</u>.
- Finding and removing stagnant air.
- <u>Ventilation matches occupancy</u>.
- <u>Combining the impact of masking, distancing and ventilation</u>.

Finding and removing stagnant air



This room cross section with ceiling air supply (top left) and ceiling exhaust (top right) reveals the location of relatively stagnant air (in red) despite HVAC. Such areas of stagnant air will almost certainly be found (eg. by measuring CO2) even with correctly working HVAC.

What this implies is that HVAC designed to supply 6 air changes per hour may only be supplying 3 or 2 or less air changes to these areas with elevated CO2 levels. Extra air treatment eg. filtering (ideally HEPA), or fan/mixing will be required to level up these stagnant air zones.



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Adopting The COVID-19 Safety Pledge

Displaying The COVID-19 Safety Pledge means demonstrating to customers and employees an ongoing commitment to their safety.

Adopting the Pledge means aiming to implement its core principles at your workplace or organisation and consulting employees via their recognised union(s), where one exists.



ProCare (NZ)



Royal New Zealand College of Urgent Care



The Maskers Comics (US)



Independent Sage (UK)





cleanairstars.com (AU)



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