Working in forestry-related operations at Alert Level 2
Play it Safe

Safe work practices to limit exposure to COVID-19 while operating under Alert Level 2 at work mean first assessing the risks, and then implementing the appropriate controls, so far as is reasonably practicable.

All work must be undertaken in such a way as to reduce any possible contact between workers and to promote physical distancing wherever possible. Remember to discuss and agree changes with your people.

General arrangements

- Keep crew / team sizes as small as possible.
- Have QR codes in workplaces. Everyone must scan in or manually register
- When using a vehicle, ensure it is properly cleaned.
- When traveling for work or using a vehicle, limit the number of people per vehicle to maintain one metre spacing.

On site

- Require workers to clean their hands before entering and leaving the site.
- Regularly clean common contact surfaces.
- Where possible, conduct a remote induction before arrival on site, this can be done via video conferencing or by phone. If an in-person induction is required, reduce the number of people and hold them outdoors if possible.
- Visitors must sign-in using QR codes or a manual register if they don't have a smartphone. They must follow the physical distancing rules on site.
- If using manual sign-in registers, these should be recorded by one person where possible – do not pass material around the group and minimise contact with any screens or pens.

Site meetings

- Attendees should be one metre apart from each other.
- Hold meetings in open areas where possible.
- If rooms have to be used, they should be well ventilated and any windows opened to allow fresh air circulation.
- Meetings are to be held through teleconferencing or videoconferencing where possible.

Interacting with visitors and others

- Keep engagement with other person as brief as possible and maintain a two-metre physical distance if you don't know the person.
- Wear a face covering if you can't maintain physical distancing.
- Get paperwork sent electronically, rather than handed over, where possible.
- If unavoidable, then either wear gloves when handling the item or wash hands before and after handling any paperwork.

Physical distancing

- Physical distancing is important to help protect us from COVID-19, particularly as the Delta variant is much more contagious.
- People working together should keep at least one-metre physical distancing, and more where it is reasonably practicable, unless other mitigating measures are in place (see below for details of mitigating measures).
- People should keep two-metres physical distancing from people they do not know.

Mitigating measures for close working

- In situations where it is believed that work can only be done safely and effectively with less than one-metre physical distancing, first directly consult the workers involved with the work.
- Close work like this can only be done using a hierarchy of controls and risk management, for example:
  - Physical barriers.
  - Wearing a face covering.
  - Increased hygiene and cleanliness.
  - Short duration works.
  - Wearing additional PPE (face shields, gloves, safety glasses etc).
  - Increased ventilation in enclosed spaces.
- Note:
  - Re-usable PPE must be thoroughly cleaned after use and not shared between workers. Single use PPE should be disposed of so that it cannot be reused.

Travel

- Travel to and from work in crew vans may be done as 'close working'. But if this is the case, mitigating measures and a hierarchy of controls like that outlined above must be used.
- When deciding whether to relax your travel arrangements remember that if you get a COVID-19 case in your crew, your entire crew will be impacted.

KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE

- **Stay home if you're are sick**
- **Get tested if you have symptoms; call Healthline 0800 358 5453 for advice on testing and isolating**
- **Wear face coverings when in close proximity to others**
- **Have QR codes in workplaces. Everyone must scan in or manually register**
- **Maintain physical distancing**
- **Wash hands for 20 seconds regularly with soap and dry thoroughly, or use sanitiser**
- **Clean and disinfect common contact surfaces frequently and keep other surfaces clean.**