

COVIDSafe Modified Patrols Guide

GENERAL ADVICE &
INSTRUCTIONS



Purpose

This guide will assist in navigating the changes this season (due to COVID-19) and the other relevant new resources to meet COVIDSafe requirements. It is intended that this document will continue to be updated and amended as both the season changes and further documents are created.

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COVIDSafe for Saving Lives

LIFESAVING OPERATIONS | VERSION 3.0 | OCTOBER 2021

1 Preparing for patrols

Patrolling this year is going to be different to other years due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. Whilst the mission and job requirements are the same, there are a number of additional measures and risk mitigations in place to help keep both LSV members and the public safe.

Before the patrolling season commences there are a number of different steps clubs need to take:

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION LINK
Club COVIDSafe Plan	Ask your club's COVIDSafe Coordinator
Training and skills maintenance	New Awards – Training Delivery Plan 2021-22
Gear and equipment inspections	Gear Inspection & Audit Requirements
COVIDSafe Facility Setup Checklist	COVIDSafe Facility Setup Checklist
COVIDSafe Emergency Access Plan	COVIDSafe Emergency Access Guide
Insurance information	COVIDSafe Insurance FAQ

2 Arriving for patrol

Before arriving for patrol, members should participate in, and/or complete a number of the following:

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION LINK
COVID-19 Operations Briefings	As scheduled
COVIDSafe Personal Health Checklist	COVIDSafe Personal Health Checklist
Awareness of sign in procedure	COVIDSafe Facility Access Plan

3 Patrol setup

Patrolling captain must make decisions about:

- (a) The safety of the selected patrol area
- (b) The most appropriate patrol type
- (c) How to efficiently deploy equipment and personnel
- (d) Any specific actions required to ensure public safety.

In areas where patrols are deployed, consider the following:

GENERAL	ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of the area to be patrolled • Beach attendance • Skill levels of visitors • Type of activities being undertaken • Recreational equipment being used (e.g. slides, toys and inflatables) • Potential hazards (e.g. rocks and sudden drop offs, sand bars) • Facilities available to patrollers • Safety and emergency support services • Communications systems (access to support and emergency services). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea and water state/conditions • Tides • Weather forecast • Location.
PERSONNEL AND TEAM	EQUIPMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of patrol members • Capability and training • Experience of patrol members • Fitness • Other tasks lifesavers may need to do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type and amount of equipment available • Signs and flags • Rescue equipment (e.g. boards and tubes) • First aid stores and PPE • Clinical waste bins & sharps containers • Patrol shelters • Communications equipment • Power craft • Vehicles.

Before arriving for patrol, members should understand and have knowledge of the following:

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION LINK
Equipment check and beach set-up	Volunteer Patrol Roles and Responsibilities
LIMSOC sign on	LIMSOC.COM.AU
Signage checklist	COVIDSafe Signage Checklist

4 Patrol types

PATROL SPLIT SHIFTS

- Clubs have the option to split patrol shifts over the required patrol period as per agreed protocol.

Example: A lifesaving club could have one patrol group on a Saturday rostered from 1pm to 6pm. On a Sunday, the patrolling times could be split; the first patrol group is rostered from 10am until 2:15pm, and the second group from 2pm until 6pm.

- During the changeover period, the Patrol Captain should conduct handover in such a way that minimises contact between the two patrol groups, whilst ensuring there is still surveillance of the patrol zone.

REMOTE AREA/OUTPOST PATROLS

SOP 1.5 – Remote and Outpost Patrols

- Clubs situated on a large beach or waterway have the option to set up a permanent outpost or remote patrol for the entire day.

Example: At Jan Juc, an outpost patrol could be set up in front of a safe swimming area near Bird Rock.

- The outpost or remote patrol should be located at the safest areas of the beach or waterway– this is to ensure the safety of the patrons.
- Ideally, the outpost patrol is to be set up completely independent of the primary patrol, using their own IRB, vehicle, first aid equipment, PPE, etc. If not, the IRB should be set at a position on the beach where both patrols can easily access it quickly.
- Clubs may choose to split one patrol group (e.g. where the Vice Patrol Captain could act as the on-scene commander at the outpost patrol) or have two different patrol groups at each patrolling site.
- NB: If two different patrol groups are used on any given day, social distancing must be maintained whilst inside the club facilities during changeover to prevent overcrowding or contamination.

OBSERVATIONAL REMOTE AREA/OUTPOST PATROL

- Where the club may not have enough resources and/or cannot find a safe secondary area to set up a remote area or outpost patrol; an observational outpost patrol can be used.
- Similar to a traditional observation patrols, no flags are to be set up, however the observational outpost patrol is to meet the minimum equipment standards for an outpost patrol as per SOP 1.5 – Remote and Outpost Patrols, as well as personnel standards for an observational patrol as per SO.

Example: At Portsea, an observational outpost patrol could be established at London Bridge (1km down the beach). The location is a rock pool swimming area, that is deemed to be an unsuitable location to set up the flags, however it does attract a high population of beach users in certain conditions. Use of additional signage warning patrons of hazards and other considerations specific to the observational remote area/outpost patrol is recommended.

- Clubs may choose to split one patrol group (e.g. where the Vice Patrol Captain could act as the on-scene commander at the outpost patrol) or have two different patrol groups at each patrolling site.
- NB: If two different patrol groups are used on any given day, social distancing must be maintained whilst inside the club facilities during changeover to prevent overcrowding or contamination.

ROVING PATROLS

- Roving patrols can be used to minimise the amount of people in and around the primary patrol area.
- It can be as simple as scheduling two or more patrolling members to rove the beach/coastline whilst observing beachgoer activity and providing safety advice to members of the public. This can be done by walking, using the IRB, or using a patrol vehicle.
- When using the IRB, an appropriate response time for the primary patrol area must be maintained.
- If the club has a 4WD patrol vehicle, patrolling members have the option of travelling to nearby beaches that attract large numbers to observe the safety of beachgoers. They may choose to initially act as a discreet observational patrol at this location (i.e. a patrol that is not readily identifiable as a lifesaving patrol but is on scene to observe beachgoers).
- It is important that roving patrols outside of the normal operational areas, maintain regular communication and SITREP checks with the main patrol area and LSVComms.
- Where possible, these patrols should consist of a minimum of two patrol members.
- All roving patrols need to meet the minimum equipment standards for an outpost patrol as per SOP 1.5 – Remote and Outpost Patrols as well as personnel standards as per SOP 1.1 – Volunteer Patrol Roles and Responsibilities.

PARALLEL PATROL

- A parallel patrol is method used extensively overseas and in other states in Australia. A parallel patrol is essentially two designed patrols side by side separated using shared patrol shelter and equipment.
- They can be set up a few hundred metres apart if a safe swimming area is available.
- The two patrols would share the same IRB and vehicle (ATV or 4WD) due to the short (walking) distance apart.
- The command structure would stay as per normal arrangements for this patrolling method, with a recommendation that the Patrol Captain and Vice Patrol Captain be stationed at the different patrol areas.
- By using a parallel patrol it will reduce the number of patrol members using the same primary patrol area.
- The second patrol area would need to meet the minimum equipment standards for an outpost patrol as per SOP 1.5 – Remote and Outpost Patrols as well as personnel standards as per SOP 1.1 – Volunteer Patrol Roles and Responsibilities.
- NB: If two different patrol groups are used on any given day, social distancing must be maintained whilst inside the club facilities during changeover to prevent overcrowding or contamination.

5 On patrol

Whilst on patrol, members should consider the following:

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION LINK
Patrol types	Remote and Outpost Patrols
Changes to patrols this season	SOP 1.19 – Modified Patrol Operations (COVID-19)
COVIDSafe Modified Patrols Guide	This document
Beach closure	Beach Closure
Crowd management	Crowd Control Procedures

6 Responding to an incident

There are a number of changes this season which affected members when responding to an incident. The changes have been developed in consultation with SLSA, the Clinical Advisory Group, the LSOC Executive and the Volunteer Training Team.

The changes made are designed to keep both members and the general public safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Not all scenarios where the changes apply can be documented or explained, so a common sense, risk-based approach must always be taken.

If you are unsure of any of the changes, have questions, or need further information, please contact the Lifesaving Operations Team: lifesavingoperations@lsv.com.au

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION LINK
COVIDSafe First Responder Checklist	COVIDSafe First Responder Checklist
Donning and doffing PPE	Donning and Doffing Video
Communicable Diseases Guidelines	Communicable Diseases Guidelines

7 Patrol pack up

There are minimal changes to patrol pack up, with the exception of additional decontamination and cleaning requirements.

The increased focus on cleaning is to help stop the spread of COVID-19 amongst LSV members.

Good hand hygiene is the first step in this process, with the others listed below also integral to helping stop the spread:

ACTIVITY	INFORMATION LINK
LIMSOC sign off	LIMSOC.COM.AU

Cleaning equipment	COVIDSafe Cleaning Guide
Disposal of PPE	COVIDSafe Clinical Waste Guide

8 COVIDSafe Operations videos

LSV COVIDSafe Operations videos provide a visual outline of steps required for safe patrols this season.

[COVIDSafe Operations videos](#)

9 Health and wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of members is a key focus of this season. For further information or support please contact the following:

LSVComms | 13 78 73 (13SURF)

Beyond Blue | 1300 22 4636 | beyondblue.org.au

Eheadspace 1800 650 893 | headspace.org.au/eheadspace/

Head to Health | headtohealth.gov.au

Kids Helpline | 1800 55 1800 | kidshelpline.com.au

Lifeline | 13 11 14 | lifeline.org.au

Love me Love you | lovemeloveyou.org.au

10 Critical incident support

LSV critical incident information provides information on reactions, tips and information on trauma response to stressful situations.

Members can contact LSVComms for further support.

[Critical Incident Poster](#)

[Critical Incident Management Brochure](#)