

Circular 291:03:20

To: Club Captains
Club Presidents
Club Secretaries

Cc: Volunteer Support Officers
Area Lifesaving Operations Officers
State Duty Officer

From: Life Saving Operations Council (LSOC) Executive

Date: 24 March 2020

Subject: COVID-19 - Lifesaving Patrols (UPDATED)

Action: Review, act and disseminate information as relevant

From further details on this circular, please contact:
Lifesaving Operations on 03 9676 6930 or email lifesavingoperations@lsv.com.au
Circulars are available at www.lsv.com.au/circulars

Patrols – Key messages

- Lifesaving patrols to continue for the remainder of the 2019-20 season, without flags and under certain conditions.
- Clubs wishing to alter this will need to complete this [Form](#).
- Any breach in protocol agreements will be reviewed in-line with LSVs mission and values.
- Life Saver 30 (LSV's helicopter) will still patrol as normal as will all Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) units.
- LSV is defined as a support agency under the Emergency Management Manual of Victoria (Legislated)

Background

The recent [State and Federal Government announcements](#) now mean significant changes to how we go about our everyday lives. These announcements include new restrictions on gatherings, some business closures, and in Victoria school holidays being brought forward to commence as of the 24 March 2020. This will have an impact upon movement of people and population and draws into question how we will deploy our Lifesaving Services.

At LSV our mission is to prevent aquatic related death and injury in all Victorian communities. The provision of skilled and dedicated lifesavers on beaches is critical to the prevention of drowning in Victoria's waters.

The current pandemic means that we will continue to adapt how we provide that essential first response service until otherwise directed by the Victorian State Government and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

LSV decision has been made in consultation with Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) and takes into account our members' health and safety as our highest priority. Adapting our patrols enables us to take additional protective measures to reduce exposure for our patrolling members, while also meeting our responsibilities to provide water safety at beaches across the state.



Patrol Protocols

The following protocols apply for the remainder of the patrol season for the following Clubs:

- a) Clubs that have full weekend and public holiday patrols (approved protocols); and
- b) Clubs that have moved to weekend and public holiday observation patrols (approved protocols).

These new arrangements do not apply to those clubs whose Patrol Protocols have ceased.

Lifesaving patrols should continue for the remainder of the 2019-20 season, with the following conditions:

Full Patrols – moving to a “Surveillance Patrol”.	Observational Patrols – remain.
<p>4 People Maximum* ensuring the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Covid-19 Impacted Members, or members that are in a high-risk category• All member on patrol to be aged between 18-65 years old• Bronze Medallion award• 1 x IRB driver• 1 x IRB crew• Silver Medallion Beach Management• ART qualified member• IRBs on standby, not to be at water’s edge	<p>2 Persons Maximum*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Covid-19 Impacted Members, or members that are in a high-risk category• All member on patrol to be aged between 18-65 years old• Bronze Medallion award• ART qualified member
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No red and yellow flags up.• Where possible display messaging (white boards, swing signs etc)• Members to remain indoors where possible (or in vehicles or patrol tower etc).• Always maintain safe distancing and hygiene practices	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club houses to remain closed to non-patrolling members	

** Maximum means we are limiting the number of personnel in the response capacity to limit any contact with the public, while maintaining patrol strength requirement.*

Additional information

Encountering a potential COVID-19 case:

Ensure you notify your patrol captain and LSV COMMS (13 SURF) and follow the [First responder check list \(updated\)](#)

Decontamination / Cleaning

Information regarding all decontamination procedures and personal protective equipment can be found in the following [LSV communicable diseases guideline](#)

Member insurance.

Patrolling Members are fully insured as part of their patrolling requirement. As an essential service provider this has not changed and should not affect or impact on your ability to patrol.

Risk to Patrolling Members:

Using all the available advice and applying the principles provided by DHHS, Emergency Management Victoria, Ambulance Victoria and LSV, risk to operational members conducting lifesaving and first responder duties is minimal.

Future Communications

There will be an Online Life Saving Operations Council meeting on the Wednesday 25 March to ensure an opportunity for clubs to ask questions and seek advice in relation to the above.

For further information, and the latest advice, please refer to <https://lsv.com.au/healthalerts/>.

