

Circular 313:04:20

To: Club Presidents
Club Secretaries
Club Captains
All Operational / Active Members

Cc: LSOC Executive

From: Simon White – General Manager, Lifesaving Services

Date: 17 April 2020

Subject: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Expression of Interest (EOI) for Operational Support to Ambulance Victoria**

Action: Submit expression of interest by 12pm on Wednesday, 22 April

For additional 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

Background

LSV has been working with Ambulance Victoria (AV) regarding how we might provide operational assistance with first responder activities in accordance with the State Health Emergency Response Plan (SHERP).

Under the SHERP, the Department of Health and Human Services and Ambulance Victoria work together as the key government agencies that lead a health emergency response. Depending on the nature of an emergency, a broader range of health service providers and experts may also be involved to achieve the best possible health outcomes for affected community members. For example, emergencies of longer duration or widely dispersed in nature, may require additional response capacity and capability and this may involve first aid agencies (Life Saving Victoria is one of these), general practitioners (GPs), community pharmacists, and field emergency medical officers or coordinators.

As defined in the Emergency Management Manual of Victoria (EMMV), specifically Part 7, LSV has a role defined as a support agency to various control agencies, and this activity aligns with our obligations under that arrangement to support DHHS as the control agency, with Ambulance Victoria being their delegate for this health emergency.

Further to these obligations, this specific activity has been identified in the LSV Board approved Pandemic Plan, as an activity that we are likely to be asked to perform during the Phase 3c. The EOI has also been endorsed by the LSV Board meeting held on the 14th of April 2020.

Proposed Activity

At meetings over the last 2 weeks, AV has requested availability for assistance that relate to the management of workload based around the likely impacts of the COVID-19 disease.

AV have advised that if the current situation was to result in extreme demand on Ambulance services, they would potentially seek assistance in two key areas:

- (i) **Crewing Ambulances**
LSV would be tasked with pairing up with a paramedic from AV in an emergency ambulance for patient treatment. The paramedic would provide clinical care, with the First Aider providing patient management and drive the ambulance (non-lights and sirens). This is likely to be needed across Victoria over a period of around four to six weeks (depending on the case loads / impacts). Members would only provide first responder activity in accordance with their LSV first aid training.
- (ii) **Patient Management at Pre-hospital facilities**
LSV would be tasked with assisting nursing and ambulance staff located at facilities that are expected to be built adjacent to hospitals to facilitate patient handover to hospitals. It is expected that if a significant second peak was to occur, that there may be more patients than hospital beds. If this was to occur, then these facilities would assist with pre-triage activities allowing ambulances to drop off their patients, and then return to the field to provide emergency care.



Proposed Timing

Significant modelling is being undertaken, so there is no definitive answer in relation to timing. AV have advised that if a second peak was to occur, it will be significant, and that they would need our support under those circumstances. Therefore, AV are advising that the requirement for LSV to supply these above support will not be for at least another 4 to 8 weeks (perhaps even longer).

Proposed Engagement

The engagement of LSV is as a Volunteer organisation, and as such, we are seeking EOIs from our Volunteer members. Members providing this support would not be paid but would have their expenses covered (eg travel). LSV will be reimbursed for these costs by AV.

Training

LSV are working with AV at the moment establishing what training will be required to be provided. Some of the identified training that will be provided is as follows:

- Personal protective requirements around COVID-19 in line with AV's policies (LSV policies are very similar as our First Responder Guidelines are based on AVs);
- Driving training for members (Video based);
- Command and expectations of the deployment, including a refresher around dynamic risk assessments, and use of PPE (teleconference based);
- Induction into the ambulances, including PPE and operational communications (face to face with AV members).

These sessions will continue to develop as we know more from AV and the specific duties that we will be asked to perform.

PPE / Equipment

AV will provide all PPE / equipment that will be needed to perform these duties.

Volume of Resources Needed

AV have not been able to advise of how many LSV resources will be needed. LSV will continue to work with AV to quantify the volume and advise those that have expressed interest as soon as we have more information.

Expression of Interest

LSV is seeking any members that would like to express their interest in the two key assistance areas as identified in the above sections. To do that, please complete the linked form by 12pm on Wednesday, 22 April:

[EOI for Operational Support for Ambulance Victoria](#)

The EOI will also ask you questions around your ability to and willingness to participate in the above, including your availability and your location. It will also ask you to identify your training / qualifications based on an agreed set of prerequisites (risk category, first aid training and ability to drive ambulances).

Deployment / Selection

Once we have the list of those who have expressed their interest in participating, LSV will work with AV around the selection and ultimate deployment of the resources. It is likely that the deployments will be working in shifts, and could be running 24 hours, 7 days per week.

Further information and guidance

If you have any questions, please Lifesaving Operations on 03 9676 6930 or email lifesavingoperations@lsv.com.au.

Stay up to date with latest information and additional resources on COVID-19 www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts

