

<b>Audience:</b>	LSV staff, volunteers, contractors, licensees and stakeholders
<b>Hazards</b>	<p><b>Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)</b></p> <p>Coronavirus is an infectious disease that can cause respiratory syndromes, ranging from the common cold to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). In severe cases this can be potentially fatal.</p>
<b>Details</b>	<p>In December 2019, cases of a viral pneumonia caused by a previously unknown pathogen were reported in Wuhan, Central China. The pathogen was identified as a novel coronavirus (recently named SAR-CoV-2). SARS-Cov-2 causes the illness now known as coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Currently there are no known treatments (vaccine or anti-viral) against the virus.</p> <p>The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, breathing difficulties such as breathlessness, cough, sore throat, fatigue and tiredness. Cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) have now been reported in a significant number of countries around the world, including Australia.</p>
<b>Key Messages</b>	<p>As of 19 March (6.30am), there have been 565 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, 46 people have recovered and sadly, 6 have died from COVID-19. There have been 150 confirmed cases reported in Victoria. There have now been an increasing number of confirmed cases of human to human transmission.</p> <p><b>1. Important if you have travelled internationally in last 14-days you must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay at home (self-quarantine) for minimum 14-days.</li> <li>• Avoid public settings – this means you should not attend events or activities at your life saving club, work, attend childcare or university or go to other public places such as restaurants, cinemas or shopping centers and should not use public transport or taxis.</li> <li>• Seek medical care if you are unwell.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Important – High Risk Individuals</b></p> <p>Additionally, if you fall into any of the below <b>high-risk categories</b>, we ask you to assess your need to attend or undertake activities and limit your human to human interactions specifically if you are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Aged over 65 years;</li> <li>b. With a cardiovascular disease;</li> <li>c. With diabetes or high blood pressure;</li> <li>d. With autoimmune diseases; or</li> <li>e. With chronic respiratory disease.</li> </ol> <p>If you fall into the risk groups above and suspect you may have the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or require further information <b>call the dedicated hotline on 1 800 675 398.</b></p> <p><b>3. Large Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Deputy Chief Health Officer, Annalise van Diemen, has exercised emergency powers under the <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> to give a direction about non-essential gatherings of 100 people or more in an enclosed space.</li> <li>• This new requirement is now in addition to the direction on non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people in an outdoor space. This supports the Commonwealth’s revised guidelines that recommend non-essential gatherings of 100 people or more in an indoor space be prohibited from Wednesday 18 March 2020.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Latest Information:</b> the health and wellbeing of members and community is paramount, information is changing quickly, please stay up to date via the <a href="https://www.dhhs.gov.au">DHHS website</a> and online via <a href="http://www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts">www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts</a></p>

<p><b>Actions All</b></p>	<p><a href="#">DHHS social distancing and hygiene advice</a> urges Victorians to take the following steps to reduce their exposure and chances of getting ill with COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay close attention to good hand hygiene. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, especially before eating, touching your face and after using the toilet.</li> <li>• Practice cough etiquette by coughing into your elbow as opposed to hands and sneezing with a tissue – or cough into your elbow. Dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards.</li> <li>• Avoiding close contact with others, such as touching, shaking hands, hugging and kissing</li> <li>• Regularly wipe down surfaces.</li> <li>• Use the DHHS <a href="#">self-assessment checklist</a> to assist.</li> <li>• Stay home if you are sick and don't expose others. If you are unwell with flu-like symptoms, do not go outside your property or home, do not go to work, school or shops unless it is essential.</li> <li>• Get vaccinated for flu (influenza) when available in April. It is not yet known whether COVID-19 could significantly increase the risks of influenza infection.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds if possible. If not, keep the time short.</li> <li>• If you feel unwell and develop a fever or shortness of breath, a cough or respiratory illness do not come to work, club or events and contact your doctor. If you have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 please notify your club and <a href="mailto:healthalerts@lsv.com.au">healthalerts@lsv.com.au</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Club Patrols</b></p>	<p>This will then prompt a discussion with your VSO, Manager of Lifesaving Operations or Director of Lifesaving Services to ensure we fully understand your circumstance and reason for adapting patrols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) any risk to patrolling members in the patrolling environments can be mitigated if they follow the <a href="#">First responder check list</a>.</li> <li>• It is important that Patrol Captains consider their individual patrolling members circumstances, including any individuals that meet the high-risk category prior to individuals patrolling. (See Below Guidance)</li> </ul> <p>We ask club leaders to consider local circumstances and member concerns. If there is a requirement adapt or modify patrols, please communicate this in writing via this <a href="#">Online Application Form</a>.</p>
<p><b>Immediate Safety Consideration for Patrolling Members and providers of First Aid</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Use issued PPE</b> as per existing protocols with all patients.</li> <li>• <b>Members should familiarise</b> themselves with LSV's <a href="#">communicable disease policy</a>.</li> <li>• <b>If treating a patient with respiratory issues (a cough or breathing difficulties), wear a P2 face mask</b> in addition to the standard PPE for all patient treatment.</li> <li>• <b>Take a patient history including medical and travel</b> to establish travel and any flu like symptoms or respiratory symptoms.</li> <li>• <b>Be alert</b> for patients who meet the case definition.</li> <li>• <b>If you suspect that the patient has coronavirus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ensure</b> the patient wears a P2 face mask, isolate them from others and if available place them in a single room.</li> <li>○ <b>Withdraw</b> from activities immediately and notify Patrol Captain</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Notify</b> LSVComms (13 SURF) immediately of suspected case and follow instructions for patient and patrol members.</li> <li>• <b>Refer to the <a href="#">First responder check list</a> and Guide for further information</b></li> </ul>

<b>Planned Activities</b>	<p>Clubs should review planned activities on a case by case basis and implement the appropriate precautions, and consider modifying, postponing or cancelling, should the safety and health of club member participants be compromised.</p> <p><a href="#">The Activities Guidance Tool</a></p> <p>If you would like to discuss potential modification, postponement or cancellations contact your VSO or Human Resources to talk through any concerns.</p>
<b>For Life Saving Clubs and Organisations</b>	<p>Life Saving Clubs and Organisations should keep up to date with the latest information and resources via the links and consider the following communications and actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Member Advice:</b> Sending a notification out to all members advising them of precautionary measures.</li> <li><b>Patrolling Members:</b> Notifying patrolling members of latest information with regards to suspected cases and undertake checklist.</li> <li><b>Participant Advice:</b> Sending a notification out to all participants undertaking activities advising them of precautionary measures.</li> <li><b>Planned Activities:</b> Review planned events and activities against <a href="#">DHHS</a> recommendations and undertake a risk assessment accordingly and modify, postpone or cancel as appropriate using <a href="#">LSV Activities Guideline Tool</a></li> <li><b>Resources for Clubs and Organisations:</b> utilise available resources and Tools to plan, act and communication communicate including, plan templates, tracking tools, posters etc.  Resource packs with posters, templates for communications and information will be available <a href="#">online</a> and updated during the week.</li> <li><b>Take action around the club;</b> review supplies, cleaning and protocols to help limit infection and transmission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure sign-in and sign-out sheets at entrances</li> <li>Provide and promote sanitisers for use on entering buildings.</li> <li>Ensure high standards of routine environmental cleaning.</li> <li>Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly, including desks and keyboards.</li> <li>Open windows, enhance airflow, adjust air conditioning.</li> <li>Promote preventive actions amongst your members and staff - lead by example.</li> <li>Plan for what to do if members or staff arrive sick at work.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>LSV Events and Programs</b>	<p>LSV has announced a number of <b>postponements and cancellation</b> for the coming period.</p> <p>Please refer to the list on our <a href="#">Health Alerts page</a> for latest information.</p>
<b>Harmony and Inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are increasing reports of racist taunts and behaviours directed at Chinese and Iranian people as a result of the Coronavirus.</li> <li>There is no need and no excuse for racism or intolerance.</li> <li>Life Saving Victoria condemns all forms of discrimination and vilification.</li> <li>Everyone has the right to feel safe and that they belong.</li> <li>Australians and Victorians alike need be respectful and support one another during this time.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Welfare</b></p>	<p>We understand these are particularly uncertain and difficult times for Clubs, members and Community.</p> <p>If you need help during this time, we encourage you to speak with family and friends, and you can call the support services below:</p> <p>Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14</p> <p>Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636</p> <p>Life Saving Victoria – please contact LSV comms directly.</p> <p>If members or individuals have any immediate concerns for their or others wellbeing, LSV do recommend seeing a local GP.</p> <p>Additional welfare resources are available via <a href="http://www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts">www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts</a> including information on talking to younger members, immediate response to trauma/loss.</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p>	<p>As the situation in regards of cases of Coronavirus is evolving rapidly please use the available resources to keep informed of the latest updates.</p> <p>Latest information will be available on the LSV website: <a href="http://www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts">www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts</a></p> <p><b>Other Resources:</b></p> <p>Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular; <a href="https://lsv.com.au/wp-content/uploads/SLSA-Bulletin-Coronavirus-03.1920.pdf">https://lsv.com.au/wp-content/uploads/SLSA-Bulletin-Coronavirus-03.1920.pdf</a> * note some information has been superseded, given the speed of changing advice.</p> <p>Department of Health and Human Services Website – Victoria: <a href="https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus">https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus</a></p> <p>SmartTraveller Website: <a href="https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/coronavirus-covid-19</a></p> <p>Australian Government Department of Health: <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert">https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert</a></p> <p>Worksafe: <a href="https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/exposure-coronavirus-workplaces">https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/exposure-coronavirus-workplaces</a></p>