

SOP 1.19 – Modified Patrol Operations (COVID-19)

Section 1 – Patrol Operations

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Effective Date – 8 October 2020

Review Date – 8 October 2021

Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To describe the procedures to be followed by Life Saving Victoria (LSV) Lifesaving Operations personnel during the Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Coronavirus pandemic, also known as COVID-19.

Scope

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) applies to all LSV personnel; paid staff, office holders, and volunteer members who are engaged in lifesaving operations.

For up to date LSV specific information, please refer to the LSV COVID Recovery webpage at <https://lsv.com.au/clubcovidrecovery/>

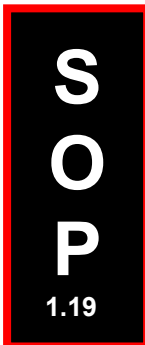
For up to date Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) information, please refer to the DHHS webpage at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Policy Statement

LSV requires all staff and members to adhere to established policies, procedures, and guidelines to ensure safe and effective practices relating to Lifesaving Operations.

Responsibilities

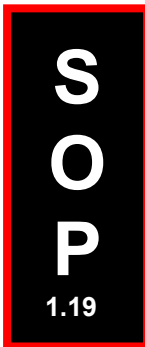
Name	Key Responsibilities
COVIDSafe Officer – Can be either Club Captain or COVIDSafe Coordinator	Ensure there is an adequate supply of PPE available and that any PPE usage is reported to Lifesaving Operations. Undertake and deliver training in relation to the use of PPE, including donning and doffing techniques, and decontamination procedures. Remain current with COVID-19 advice as provided by LSV. Disseminate information to club members including updates or changes to guidelines, policies, and procedures.
Patrol Captain	Coordination of all Patrol Members whilst on patrol and in the event of an incident.



	<p>Support the health and safety of members conducting volunteer patrols, ensuring safety is front of mind during patrol activities.</p> <p>Ensure adequate equipment and PPE is available for patrolling members.</p> <p>Ensure COVIDSafe Personal Health Checklist is completed by all members prior to operational activities and contact tracing record is completed.</p>
Patrol Member	<p>Correct use and disposal of PPE.</p> <p>Undertake communicable disease training prior to commencing any operational activity.</p> <p>Communicate any health and safety concerns to Patrol Captain or other applicable person.</p>
Lifesaving Operations Officers	<p>Provide lifesaving support and guidance to clubs and lifesaving service personnel.</p> <p>Coordinate the emergency supply and restock of PPE items as required.</p>
State Duty Officer	<p>Provide lifesaving support and guidance to clubs and lifesaving service personnel.</p>

Definitions

Name	Definition
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
Donning PPE	Putting on Personal Protective Equipment
Doffing PPE	Removing Personal Protective Equipment
IRB	Inflatable Rescue Boat
LSV Comms	Life Saving Victoria Communications
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SSV	Side by Side Vehicle



Procedure

Patrol Types and Requirements

Due to the ease by which COVID-19 can spread, additional measures have been developed to ensure the safety of members. These measures apply to all members; however, it should be noted that when responding to some emergency situations, some measures may not be practicable.

The following measures apply:

Patrol Tower: Maximum amount of lifesavers/people in the patrol must maintain social distance of 1.5m apart (likely to be only 2 in most towers). Due to the confined nature of Patrol Towers all operational members must always wear a face mask*.

Patrol Shelter: Social distancing of 1.5m must be maintained between members. The wearing of face masks* will depend on current Victorian COVID-19 restrictions.

Roving Patrols: Social distancing of 1.5m must be maintained between members. The wearing of face masks* will depend on current Victorian COVID-19 restrictions.

SSV (previously ATV): Face masks* to be worn at all times by driver and passengers.

Patrol 4X4: Face masks* to be worn at all times by driver and passengers.

IRB: Face masks* should be worn where practical (dependant on activity / conditions). e.g. may be practical for general water safety / patrolling, but not during a rescue event.

Board and Tube Rescues: No additional PPE required. Decontamination procedures apply on completion.

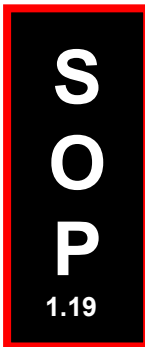
*The level and type of face mask will be dependent on the current Victorian COVID-19 restrictions at that time.

Before, During and After Patrol

Transmission between health care workers in Victoria has primarily occurred in situations which are not related to emergency response or patient treatment. Social distancing and the wearing of PPE should still occur when not undertaking lifesaving operations.

Patrol Captains should consider the following:

- Conduct a detailed patrol briefing outlining current COVID-19 specific requirements, PPE requirements or any other information which will assist members in being safe on patrol.
- Ensure members are adequately supervised and complying with social distancing and PPE requirements as advised by LSV and DHHS.
- Continually assess lifesaving roles, responsibilities and resources.
- Supervise the use of the club facilities and ensure adherence to capacity restrictions.
- Provide guidance, advice and support to all members.
- Seek advice as required from the State Duty Officer or relevant LSV representative.



COVID-19 Required PPE

PPE has always been required for emergency care response. During the pandemic the mandated level of PPE should always be worn until the completion of treatment (including patient handover). Once handover is complete, members should dispose of contaminated first aid equipment in the allocated containers, before decontaminating the response area, vehicles and other items used in the response. Once decontamination is complete members should remove and replace worn/used PPE items.

The following table is an example of the modification to resuscitation, when responding to incidents under the [LSV COVIDSafe Plan](#) scenarios.

Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D
Normal Resuscitation Procedure	Normal Resuscitation Procedure	Adjusted Resuscitation Procedure	Adjusted Resuscitation Procedure
Normal PPE Required*	Full PPE Required	Full PPE Required	Full PPE Required

*The PPE requirements are subject to change and will be inline with current DHHS and partner agency requirements.

LSV will continue to communicate to clubs and members the current status and any changes to the COVIDSafe Plan scenarios and PPE requirements.

Full Member PPE Procedure (in order):

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Add protective outer garment (long-sleeve disposable gown)
3. Wear a P2/KN95/N95 face mask (if currently wearing a Surgical face mask please remove and apply the P2/KN95/N95 face mask)
4. Apply protective eyewear
5. Apply gloves

Please ensure that when using PPE, the LSV donning and doffing procedures are followed.

Doffing of PPE should always occur under the supervisor of another operational member. This is to ensure contamination does not occur during the removal of PPE.

The following situations are to be responded to with full PPE:

- Confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Person with fever or chills in the absence of an alternative diagnosis.
- Person with an acute respiratory infection (e.g. runny nose, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, loss of smell or taste).
- Person exhibiting a fever (>37.5C) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills).
- Unconscious person of any cause.
- Person currently quarantined/detained for possible COVID-19 infection.
- Person who is unwell and unable to provide an adequate history/cause.
- Healthcare or aged care workers with a headache, myalgia, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea.

The main concern when undertaking first aid or CPR is the potential for greater exposure to infection through aerosol generating procedures.

Adjusted CPR Procedure

The following procedure is to be adopted when there are high levels of COVID-19 circulating within the local community. Under the current [LSV COVIDSafe Plan](#) scenarios this would apply during scenarios C and D. The application of this modified workflow under scenario B is subject to the current COVID-19 context, circumstances of the situation and based on a dynamic risk assessment.

1. Apply surgical face mask to patient while waiting for oxygen – do not delay chest compressions while waiting for oxygen.
2. If administering oxygen, a face mask must be applied to the patient over the oxygen therapy mask (Hudson Mask) and the regulator setting of 8 litres/min used.
3. Whilst conducting CPR avoid the use of the following aerosol generating procedures*:
 - Airway suctioning
 - Bag valve mask without heat moisture exchanger (viral) filter and an advanced airway (intubated patient)
 - Invasive airway management
 - High flow oxygen (>10.litres/min)

*If it is identified that the patient will greatly benefit from any of the above procedures, and all members involved are aware of the risks and agree to adopt one or all of the above procedures, they may do so at their own risk.

Donning and Doffing Procedure

The correct wearing and removal of PPE equipment is essential to minimise the risk of contamination. The procedure involves a number of steps which must be performed in a specific sequence. This procedure is visually explained in the LSV Donning and Doffing Information.

Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene is the practice of reducing the number of micro-organisms on the hands. It refers to two common forms of hand cleansing:

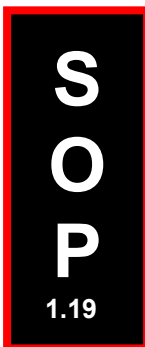
- Hand rub - application of a waterless antimicrobial agent (for example, at least 70% alcohol-based hand rub) to the surface of the hands
- Hand wash - use of water and soap or soap solution (whether plain or antimicrobial), followed by patting dry with single-use towels.

Safety

Decontamination

Correct use of PPE, and adherence to the donning and doffing procedures mean there is minimal personal decontamination required. If you do not use PPE, or have a PPE breach please follow the below steps:

- Sanitise hands
- Remove affected clothing
- Sanitise hands again
- Change into clean clothing
- Sanitise hands again before resuming duties



- Place affected clothing in a sealed bag and later follow [LSV Cleaning Guide](#) to further decontaminate

If wearing a wetsuit, you can decontaminate this by washing the wetsuit with soap and water. This should be done whilst wearing the wetsuit and completed before removing or pulling over the head.

Further information relating to decontamination of equipment and surfaces is contained within the [LSV COVIDSafe Cleaning Guide](#).

Face Masks

A disposable surgical face mask may be continuously worn for up to 4 hours or until it becomes soiled or wet. If the mask is removed during the 4-hour period or during patient treatment it must be replaced with a new mask.

P2/KN95/N95 masks must be used for any first aid intervention or aerosol generating procedure, whether the patient is potential or a confirmed to have COVID-19.

A P2/KN95/N95 used for any aerosol generating procedure cannot be reused. You must doff and dispose of the mask in the yellow medical waste bin once you have completed treatment and decontaminated the first aid/CPR equipment.

Operational Safety

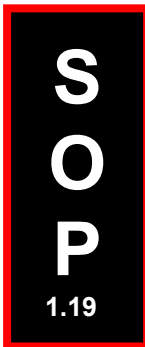
A confirmed COVID-19 case is a formal medical diagnosis, being a person who tests positive to a validated SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test or has the virus identified by electron microscopy or viral culture.

Donning and Doffing procedures must be followed to ensure the safety of members. Members should look out for each other and ensuring these procedures are done correctly. If a step is missed or if there is uncertainty in the process, please let your Patrol Captain know.

Decontamination procedures should be followed at the conclusion of an incident, at the end of shift or end of rostered deployment.

Any PPE use should be reported to the nominated patrol representative.

Any potential exposure should be reported to the club COVID representative and State Duty Officer. If there has been an identified breach of PPE this must also be reported.



References	
Related Material	OPS-G-001 - Communicable Diseases Guideline
	Donning and Doffing Instruction Video
	LSV COVIDSafe Plan
	LSV COVIDSafe Cleaning Guide
Legislation	Operational Health and Safety Act 2004
	Operational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Review	
Date of Issue	07/10/2020
Date Effective	08/10/2020
Date to be Reviewed	08/10/2021
Date to Cease	08/10/2022

Authority
The Life Saving Operations Council Executive has approved this SOP under section 8.3.6(e) of the Life Saving Victoria By-laws, 2019.

