

# Memorandum

To:	All Clubs; All Branches
From:	Kaitlyn Akers, General Manager – Club Services
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Subject:	Updates regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Queensland Championships and Lifesaving Patrols
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## **Updates and information regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

With multiple cases of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) now confirmed in Australia, it's important that all clubs and members are exercising care to protect themselves and minimise the risk of infection.

Current advice from Queensland Health includes:

- Clean hands with soap and water, or alcohol-based hand rubs.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with anyone who has symptoms such as fever, a cough, sore throat, fatigue, and shortness of breath.
- Stay home if you are unwell.
- Try to stay at least 1.5 metres away from people coughing or sneezing.

Further information about symptoms, travel warnings, and other preventative measures can be found at the following link:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/diseases/coronavirus/public-info-novel-coronavirus/fact-sheet-coronavirus>

In line with current advice from health authorities, anyone who develops flu-like symptoms, or has recently travelled to areas of concern, is strongly advised to seek medical attention.

Authorities are also advising people who are unwell to stay at home and away from public events – a stance supported by SLSQ. While this may preclude some from patrolling, competing in surf sport events, and/or participating in other key programs, it's vital that advice from health authorities is adhered to at all times.

Please work with your club to arrange an alternative person to fill your spot if you are unable to patrol.

Additionally, any members who have come into contact with someone diagnosed with the virus should seek medical advice, and refrain from accessing their club and/or undertaking club activities for a period of no less than 14 days.

## **Queensland Surf Life Saving Championships**

At this stage, the 2020 Queensland Youth, Masters, and Open Surf Life Saving Championships on the Sunshine Coast will be proceeding as planned.

Queensland Health is currently advising “there is no need to cancel any events or gatherings, or take additional precautions to normal practice. People who are unwell should not attend public events.”

However, it’s important to note the health and safety of members, competitors, officials, and volunteers will remain our key priority at all times. As such, SLSQ will be closely monitoring the situation over the coming weeks, and will heed any and all advice from relevant authorities including Queensland Health, the World Health Organisation, and the Centre of Disease Control.

SLSQ will continue to keep our members informed of the situation, and will provide further updates as required.

### **Lifesaving operations and patrols**

All lifesaving operations and beach patrols across Queensland will continue as normal, however members are encouraged to exercise care and caution to minimise the risk of infection.

It’s critical that all patrols are strictly adhering to policies and procedures around the correct use of PPE, including bag valve masks during resuscitations and gloves where required.

Meanwhile, clubs engaged in training and education should ensure that all policies regarding the cleaning and decontamination of manikins and other equipment are also strictly adhered to.

Surfaces and objects should be kept clean and wiped regularly with disinfectant, while all members should be encouraged to regularly wash their hands with an appropriate soap or alcohol-based solution.

It is also imperative that members are following all other standard operating procedures with regards to personal health and safety.

From an organisational perspective, SLSQ is continuing to develop contingency plans to minimise disruption, support all clubs, and ensure business continuity during this time.

SLSQ will continue to monitor the situation closely over the coming weeks, and will heed any and all advice from relevant authorities including the World Health Organisation, Queensland Health, and the Centre of Disease Control.

SLSQ will continue to keep our members informed of the situation, and will provide further updates as required.

Kind Regards,

Kaitlyn Akers  
General Manager – Club Services