



Memorandum

To:	All SLSNSW Clubs & Branches
From:	Steven Pearce, Chief Executive Officer – SLSNSW
Date:	06 March 2020
Pages:	3
Subject:	Health Alerts for Members and Clubs: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Members

SLSNSW is committed to ensuring the safety and well being of our members, and as such, with the current Coronavirus emergency continuing to escalate, we feel it is important to provide as much information to you that is relevant in your role as lifesavers, emergency first responders and community members.

Background	<p>In December 2019, cases of a viral pneumonia caused by a previously unknown pathogen were reported in Wuhan, 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 effective against this virus.</p> <p>Cases of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) have now been reported in a significant number of countries around the world, including Australia.</p>
Health Alerts for Members and Clubs	<p>With the recent outbreak of COVID-19 around the world, Life Saving NSW is taking a number of precautionary actions to mitigate and protect staff, volunteers and members, as much as is practical.</p> <p>As there is an immediate threat, we are developing information, plans and communications in preparation for a declaration of a pandemic. If such a declaration is made, it is anticipated this will have an impact on staff, members and surf lifesaving activities.</p> <p>Our preparation includes reviewing plans for large events, standard operating procedures, travel and our general business operations.</p> <p>As this health event continues, we will endeavor to maintain communications and information provision to members, clubs, branches and staff to maintain safety and confidence.</p> <p>Important information - attached to this Circular for immediate distribution - is a <i>Health Alert</i> which provides latest information and actions required.</p>
Action	<p>Prepare, review and act in accordance with the attached information.</p>

Sincerely

Steven Pearce
Chief Executive Officer
Surf Life Saving New South Wales



Audience	SLSNSW Members, staff, contractors and stakeholders .
Hazards	<p>Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)</p> <p>Coronavirus is an infectious disease that can cause respiratory syndromes, ranging from the common cold to pneumonia and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). In severe cases it can be fatal.</p>
Details	<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>
Key Messages	<p>As of 6 March, there have been 55 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia. This includes one death. There have now also been confirmed cases of human to human transmission in NSW.</p> <p>NSW Health advises that if you have been in mainland China, Iran, Italy or South Korea in the past 14 days you are advised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay at home (self-quarantine) for 14 days after return to Australia • Avoid public settings – this means you should not attend work, childcare or university, patrols, sporting events or go to other public places such as restaurants, shopping centres and you should not use public transport or taxis • Seek medical care if you are unwell. <p>If you have travelled overseas and develop symptoms within 14 days of returning to Australia, see a doctor for urgent assessment. Call the doctor's clinic or hospital before you arrive and advise them of your travel history.</p> <p>For more information about novel coronavirus (COVID-19), call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.</p>
Actions All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to hand hygiene. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, especially before eating, and avoid touching your face • Practice cough etiquette by coughing or sneezing into your elbow or using a tissue. Dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards • Avoid close contact with others, such as touching, shaking hands, hugging and kissing • Regularly wipe down surfaces. • Face masks are not recommended for use by members of the public, although anyone who wants to be cautious can of course choose to wear one.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you feel unwell and develop a fever or shortness of breath, a cough, sore throat or respiratory illness do not come to work, surf club, patrols or events and contact your doctor.
<p>Immediate Safety Consideration for Patrolling Members and providers of First Aid</p>	<p>If a member identifies a person with suspected Coronavirus, that member must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use issued PPE as per existing protocols with all patients • Withdraw from activities immediately and notify the Patrol Captain • DO NOT broadcast over radio network, notify SurfCom on 02 9471 8092 of a suspected case of coronavirus and follow instructions for patient and patrol members • DO NOT treat suspected persons with coronavirus in Surf Club First Aid rooms or other areas of the Club • Patrolling Members suspected to be directly exposed to Coronavirus should thoroughly wash with soap and water and follow existing SOPs.
<p>For Surf Lifesaving Clubs</p>	<p>Surf Lifesaving Clubs should keep up to date with the latest information and resources via the links below and consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sending a notification out to all members advising them of precautionary measures 2. Notify patrolling members of latest information with regards to suspected cases 3. Sending a notification out to all participants undertaking public courses, events or activities advising them of precautionary measures.
<p>Harmony & Inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been some reports of racist taunts and behaviours directed at certain nationalities as a result of the Coronavirus • Racism and discrimination will not be tolerated • Surf Life Saving NSW condemns all forms of discrimination and vilification • Everyone has the right to feel safe and that they belong • We all need be respectful and support one another during this time.
<p>Resources</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Health COVID-19 website: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx • SmartTraveller Website: https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/coronavirus-covid-19 • Australian Government Department of Health: https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov • SafeWork NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/news/safework-public-notice/coronavirus