



Dear members,

With the COVID-19 situation continuing to evolve on a daily basis, it is important that all of our members are exercising care and caution to protect themselves and others.

Importantly, the health and safety of SLSQ members, staff, and the general public remains our core priority at all times.

To keep all members updated as new information comes to light, SLSQ has created an online hub - [www.lifesaving.com.au/covid19](http://www.lifesaving.com.au/covid19). This will be updated on a regular basis with new information for members and the general public.

### **Surf Life Saving Queensland - update**

From Wednesday 18 March, all SLSQ support centres across the state will be moving to a work-from-home arrangement, where possible, until further notice from government and health authorities comes to light.

This decision has been made to help protect our staff and members alike, and to minimise the risk of gaining or spreading infection to the broader public.

### **What does this mean for clubs and branches?**

It is important to note the day-to-day operations of SLSQ will continue, as will the support and services provided to clubs, branches, members, and the broader public.

From an organisational perspective, SLSQ has developed contingency plans to minimise disruption and ensure business continuity during this time.

We remain committed to our overarching vision of 'Zero preventable deaths in Queensland public waters' and, at this stage, will continue to work with clubs, branches, and our lifeguard operations to ensure suitable coverage of Queensland's coastline.

From an administration perspective, our support staff across all regions will continue to be available via email and mobile phone, and we appreciate your patience and understanding if there are any delays in responding to your enquiries.

### **Are there any changes to patrol requirements?**

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

Clubs are expected to engage with volunteers to ensure that all patrol requirements and responsibilities are being fulfilled.

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

We strongly suggest that all training and education be suspended unless it is specifically needed to fulfil requirements around patrol service agreements for this season. Clubs already engaged in training and education should ensure that all policies regarding cleaning and decontamination of manikins and other equipment are 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.

Operations support services will continue across the state, and emergency response groups will also remain in place. Please ensure that all operations are managed in accordance with the Patrol Operations Manual.

### **Member health and safety**

It is important that all members are heeding advice from health authorities at all times, including new rules and regulations around self-quarantine.

Authorities are also advising people who are unwell to stay at home – a stance supported by SLSQ. While this may preclude some from patrolling or participating in

other SLS activities, it's vital that advice from health authorities is strictly adhered to at all times.

Additionally, any members who are feeling unwell and/or have potentially been exposed to the virus should seek medical attention, follow all advice, and refrain from accessing their club/branch for a period of no less than 14 days.

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

### **Member support**

Our SLS community is fortunate to have a diverse range of age groups within our membership base.

For some, the necessary precautions associated with COVID-19 may lead to isolation, loneliness and difficulty obtaining essential items such as food and medications.

We encourage all members to look out for those people who fall within identified 'high-risk' demographical groups, including members aged 70+. This may include reaching out to check on their welfare, regular telephone calls, and providing any practical support they may need help with.

### **Where can I find further information?**

#### ***Surf Life Saving Queensland***

SLSQ has created an online information hub for our members and the general public with regards to COVID-19. This can be found at the following link – [www.lifesaving.com.au/covid19](http://www.lifesaving.com.au/covid19).

This is an extremely complex, and largely unprecedented situation, with advice from government and health authorities changing on a near-daily basis. As a result, the above link will be updated on a regular basis as and when new information and advice comes to light.

We encourage all clubs and members to monitor it on a regular basis to ensure you are receiving the most up-to-date information from across SLSQ.

Should you have any specific questions or concerns not already addressed in the information above, please don't hesitate to contact your regional support office for advice.

## ***Health advice***

Information about signs, symptoms, preventative measures and more can be found at the following links –

[Queensland Health](#)

[Australian Government, Department of Health](#)

[World Health Organisation](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Infection](#)

Thanks to all of our volunteers for your continued efforts and commitment.

Yours in lifesaving,



Mark Fife OAM  
President

Surf Life Saving Queensland



Dave Whimpey  
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Surf Life Saving Queensland

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