

Lion's Event Management – COVID 19

This advice relates to any events arranged by Lions in the current environment, including club meetings, weekend events, seminars, workshops and conferences.

Government Directions

Lions must follow all government directions. Currently gatherings exceeding 500 persons are prohibited for the next two weeks. It is highly likely that this period will be extended in future.

Risk Management

The focus of Risk Management in the COVID 19 environment is to reduce the rate of spread of the illness so that health authorities can manage the cases.

The principle methods to reduce the spread of the virus are;

1. Personal care: - Hand-washing, hygiene around sneezing, self-isolation if symptomatic or at risk.
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19#protect-yourself-and-others>
2. Social distancing
 - a. staying at home when you are unwell
 - b. avoiding large public gatherings if they're not essential
 - c. keeping a distance of 1.5 metres between you and other people whenever possible
 - d. minimising physical contact, especially with people at higher risk such as older people and people with existing health conditions.

Those individuals at higher risk

Medical evidence suggests that the virus symptoms vary broadly. Some individuals report mild, cold-like symptoms, while for others, the risks are more severe and even fatal. Those most at risk are the elderly, those with compromised immune systems and with underlying conditions including heart disease and diabetes.

Irrespective of the individual response to the illness, it should be remembered that those with even mild symptoms can pass the illness to others. The principle management strategy is to reduce disease transmission through appropriate behaviours.

Event management

Lions Clubs with events planned in the coming months should conduct a risk assessment by the Club Board on each event, documenting the results.

The risk assessment should consider:

- a. Numbers of participants
- b. Likelihood of 'at risk' participants attending.
- c. 'Social distance' – are participants likely to be in close proximity.
- d. Availability of hygiene facilities. (Handwashing, hand sanitisers etc)
- e. Ability to control entry. (Is it possible to restrict entry to those who are observed as being unwell)
- f. Does it comply with government advice?

Precautionary principle

Lions should carefully consider the 'downside' of cancelling events.

- Is the event essential?
- What are the true consequences of cancelling? Financial? Reputational?
- Is it better to cancel now rather than cancelling closer to the event and affecting more people?
- What are the alternatives?

It is not necessary to cancel every event or club meeting unless events are specifically prohibited by government.

Each event or meeting has its own constraints and clubs need to conduct their own risk assessment.

Specific guidance

1. Club meetings
 - a. Consider whether the club can apply good hygiene and 'social distance' practices to reduce risks.
 - b. Consider advising 'at risk' members to miss the meeting rather than place themselves at risk.
 - c. Monitor and enforce restrictions that unwell members do not attend.\
 - d. Consider alternatives for essential business. Teleconferencing, ringing around members for telephone voting on important issues.
2. Barbeques and fundraising
 - a. Are the events essential?
 - b. Are your food-handling practices up to date?
 - c. Check with the venues. Some venues may pro-actively cancel fundraising BBQ's.
3. Competitions including Youth of the Year finals.
 - a. Can you run the event with restricted attendance of spectators? E.g.: Immediate family only.
 - b. Can you 'ramp-up' hygiene? e.g.: by providing hand-sanitiser.
 - c. Can you restrict Lions attendance to essential personnel?
 - d. Can you use technology such a 'Facebook-live' to stream the event to those who cannot attend?
4. Seminars and workshops
 - a. Are these events essential?
 - b. What is the venue policy on events?
 - c. Can the information be supplied in a different way?

Information sources

Australians should seek their information from reputable sources. Much of the information circulated on Social media is not substantiated. You should regularly check information on the Australian Government Health website.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

The World Health organisation website is also a useful resource.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

If you require support regarding your risk assessment and insurance, please contact your Insurance Committee who will only be too happy to help.

Lion's National events and decision-making

There are a number of events coming up, and national decisions, such as the Adelaide Convention, Notices of Motion and the election of a candidate for International Director. The Multiple District Council is working through these issues and will provide advice to members in due course.

It is prudent not to commit to Convention bookings before advice is provided at the end of this week.

Please be patient as this is a new and complex issue, and one that is developing each day.

Lion's humanitarian support during this crisis

It is unfortunate to cancel events that are important to your club and district, and that have involved significant effort of many Lions in the planning and execution.

Lions has an important role to play in this crisis just as it is continuing to do so with bushfire recovery and support during the drought.

If your hard-working Lions are released from activities due to event cancellation, please consider how your club may be able to help others affected during this emergency.

It is also very important that we continue to look into the welfare of our own members, to provide what support we can.

Stay well Lions.

Yours sincerely



Kim Forrest
Council Chairperson



The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands. Eliminate viruses that may be on your hands and avoid infection that could occur by then touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
Advice from World Health Organisation 9 March 2020



Table of Revisions		
Rev #	Date	Description of Change
Original	16/3/20	Document created