

**Squash Australia Facility Newsletter – March 2020**

**COVID-19 Update**

**\*UPDATE\***

**The federal government, as of today, has banned non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 100 people.**

**Please consider the below information from Robert Dalton A/G Chief Executive Officer at Sport Australia**

* The Australian Government has advised, effective from Monday 16 March that organised, non-essential gatherings should be limited to 500 people.
* Exercise and participation in sport remains an important part of physical and mental health for everyone. For those who are well, they should continue to be active by engaging in exercise and playing sport
* However, for community sporting events under 500 people, there are a number of additional risk mitigation strategies that clubs and event organizers should consider to help limit the spread of COVID-19
* Hand hygiene remains the single best action individuals can take to reduce their risk of acquiring any respiratory or gastrointestinal tract infection.  Wash your hands frequently with soap and water and where possible, place freely accessible hand sanitisers at your venue. Strategic placement may include at the entry/exit, and other high throughput areas.
	+ If you are coughing and sneezing, do so away from people and into a tissue, your elbow or hands. Dispose of tissues immediately and wash your hands.
	+ Understand that crowd attendance at sporting events in Australia is likely to facilitate the rapid spread of COVID-19. Consider the nature of crowd attendance for crowds of under 500 people and facilitate social distancing
	+ Clean all communal sporting equipment after each use.
	+ If manual therapies are deemed an absolute necessity, additional time per patient should be allocated to complete cleaning with appropriate surface disinfectant of all equipment. Changing a disposable covering is not a sufficient infection control strategy. If the therapist is unwell themselves, they should not provide manual therapy while unwell.
	+ Do not share drink bottles. Individuals should label their drink bottle and clean it in soap and water after each training session.
	+ Print and place signage throughout your venue to remind people of the recommended infection control practices. These resources can be found here [**https://www.health.gov.au/news/launch-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-campaign**](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.health.gov.au%2Fnews%2Flaunch-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-campaign&data=02%7C01%7CJulia.Adam%40ausport.gov.au%7C8edae8c2d529485ed66608d7ca35aff1%7C8d2e0f4c55f24cb18ee7da5dd3ff3600%7C0%7C0%7C637200204246247402&sdata=m%2FjKJoBd0g5XsSbS%2FECWKPl1rWlqJNT3iM4C1Si2Ahc%3D&reserved=0)
	+ Close physical contact with an opponent may expose an athlete to risk. This exposure will vary by sport. For example, tennis has effectively no contact between opponents. Combat sports, however, may involve significant close contact for minutes at a time.
* If a case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in a member of your sporting club or a confirmed case has attended your event, please contact your state health authority to get further advice on what steps need to be followed. Sporting clubs can assist the state public health authorities to provide prompt advice by:
	+ Keeping a record of who has attended training, what day and time training or the event took place
	+ Provide the contact details of those who have attending the event or training.

**Squash Australia recommends all clubs and facilities follow such advice in a bid to ensure the continued health of all Australian squash participants.**

Some additional useful links can also be found below:

[Ten ways to reduce your risk of coronavirus](https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/4nRMn8JHQPa31hV0QuqL)[Recommended hand hygiene steps to prevent the spread of viruses](https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/qevmQWQQQuHp8Q4UHdlw)[Victorian Institute of Sport Athlete Health Check](https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/Z7Ndt9WNQ46Ln9dJp4B8)

**Squash Australia has also now created a dedicated webpage for business support during the COVID-19 outbreak. The page provides helpful links and resources regarding business support for squash centres, Squash Australia updates and health updates from the government.**

**Link:** <https://www.squash.org.au/w/participation/squashcentrebusinesssupportforcovid-19>

Stay safe and hopefully see you around the courts soon.

George Clinton