

Health Alerts for Members, Clubs, Centres and Players: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Background

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.

Cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) have now been reported in a significant number of countries around the world, including Australia.

Health Alerts for Members and Clubs

With the recent outbreak of COVID-19 around the world, Squash Australia is currently putting in place several precautionary actions to mitigate and protect staff, clients and volunteers' members, as much as practical.

Whilst there is no immediate threat, we are developing information, plans and communications, should a pandemic be declared, or staff, members or activities be compromised by the outbreak.

This includes reviewing large events and protocols, standard operating procedures, travel and our general business operations.

Squash Australia is seeking advice from the Queensland Government Department of Health and Federal Department of Health.

In April we host the Oceania Junior Championships and the current government advice at all levels is that this event should go ahead, and the recommended precautions are taken. Those consist of:

- Evidence of certified self-quarantine for participants from effected countries indicated on the Federal governments advisory list e.g. China, Korea etc. This is at the participants own expense.
- Best practice hygiene and precautions day to day at event e.g. no shaking of hands, additional use of hand sanitizers etc.

In July we are scheduled to host the World Junior Championships. At this stage there is no indication that the World Squash Federation will cancel this event. If this is the case, then the above would be true for that event as well but the situation will be reviewed on a week by week basis.

In the coming weeks, we will provide health information, event information, resources and briefings for members as relevant. The website will maintain updates on the situation, so please follow www.Squash.org.au.

Health Alert

Audience	SQA staff, volunteers, 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 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). In severe cases this can be potentially 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>

<p>Key Messages</p>	<p>As of 4 March, there have been 38 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia. Sadly, this includes one death. There have now also been two confirmed cases of human to human transmission (in NSW).</p> <p>If you have been in mainland China (excluding Hong Kong SAR, Macau and Taiwan), 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 arrival; ▪ Avoid public settings - this means you should not attend work, childcare or university or go to other public places such as restaurants, cinemas or shopping centers and should not use public transport or taxis; and ▪ Seek medical care if you are unwell. <p>If you have travelled to other countries that are considered a moderate risk including Cambodia, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand in the last 14 days and are unwell, and develop a fever or shortness of breath, a cough or respiratory illness or you have been in contact with someone who has coronavirus disease (COVID-19):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stay at home (self-quarantine) for 14 days after arrival; ▪ Avoid public settings for 14 days after you last came into contact with them; and ▪ Seek medical care. <p>If you fall into the risk groups above and suspect you may have the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) call the dedicated hotline on 1 800 675 398.</p> <p>For more information about novel coronavirus (2019-nCov), call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.</p>
<p>Actions All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay close attention to good hand hygiene. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, especially before eating, touching your face and after using the toilet. • Practice cough etiquette by coughing into your elbow as opposed to hands and sneezing with a tissue. Dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards. • Avoiding 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 in Queensland, although anyone who wants to be cautious can of course choose to wear one. • If you feel unwell and develop a fever or shortness of breath, a cough or respiratory illness do not come to work, club or events and contact your doctor.

<p>For Members</p>	<p>If you have flu like symptoms: if you have severe difficulty breathing, call triple zero (000) immediately and tell the call handler and the paramedics on arrival about your recent travel history.</p> <p>If you have recently travelled to mainland China, and have developed a fever or respiratory symptoms, use the healthdirect Symptom Checker to help you decide what to do next.</p> <p>When you visit your doctor or the hospital emergency department, it is very important that you call before visiting to describe your symptoms and travel history.</p> <p>If you do not have symptoms</p> <p>For general information on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), call the Australian Government's Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.</p> <p>For the latest updates on COVID-19 in Australia, visit the Department of Health website.</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>For Squash Clubs/Centres</p>	<p>Squash Centres/Clubs should keep up to date with the latest information and resources via the links and consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sending a notification out to all members advising them of precautionary measures 2. Utilising posters in and around club rooms, offices and facilities 3. Sending a notification out to all participants undertaking public courses, events or activities advising them of precautionary measures. <p>Resource packs with posters, templates for communications and information will be Available online.</p>
<p>Harmony & Inclusion</p>	<p>There are increasing reports of racist taunts and behaviours directed at Chinese and Iranian people as a result of the Coronavirus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no need and no excuse for racism or intolerance. • Squash Australia condemns all forms of discrimination and vilification. • Everyone has the right to feel safe and that they belong. • Australians 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> <p>Queensland Government Department of Health: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/news-events/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus</p> <p>SmartTraveller Website: https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/coronavirus-covid-19</p> <p>Australian Government Department of Health: https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert</p>

