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# CIRCULAR

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**No: CO6/2020**  
**Date: 6 March 2020**  
**To: Zones, Districts & Clubs**  
**Re: CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19): ADVICE TO MEMBERS**

With increasing concerns around coronavirus (COVID-19) and the escalating spread of the virus, our primary aim is to protect the health and safety of all of our members and staff and to provide accurate information.

## **CORONAVIRUS:**

COVID-19 originated in China and is having an increasing impact on the global community. The medical advice is rapidly evolving and is being closely monitored by Health Authorities.

COVID-19 is a new strain, that has not been previously identified in humans.

Transmission is thought to be from coughing, sneezing or direct contact with respiratory secretions from an infected person.

In order to minimize risk of COVID-19, firstly avoid exposure. Exposure is very unlikely without travelling to countries at risk.

The Australian Government provides regular updates through smart traveler and AIS is updating regularly on their website regarding sporting activities.

Bowls Australia (BA) has released a memo regarding Coronavirus and Bowls NSW will act in conjunction with BA under the guidelines from the Australian Government and World Health Organisations.

At this stage, all Bowls NSW events are going ahead as planned.

Bowls NSW will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide regular updates over the coming weeks.

### **What to do if you become unwell – illness in general:**

If you become unwell, it is recommended that you organise a review with your GP, to ensure it is medically safe to participate or travel.

*If you become unwell and are due to participate in any competition event, it is recommended that you contact your Club and/or Zone and do not attend and organise a review with your GP to ensure it is safe to participate and travel.*

### **What to do if you become unwell and are concerned you may have coronavirus:**

Coronavirus presents as a mild cold like illness in the majority of people. If you have known exposure or have travelled to an area of high or moderate risk, and have a fever, shortness of breath, or flu like symptoms (including cough, sore throat, fatigue) or any other concerns please isolate yourself and phone your GP or Hospital Emergency Department and notify them prior to attending a review.

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**How to minimize risk:**

Good hand hygiene is likely, the single most effective method for reducing the risk of spread of viral illness.

At all Bowls NSW managed events (including Inter Zone series next week), hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the venues.

**Good hand hygiene should include:**

- Washing hands and/or use of hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your face, particularly eyes, nose and mouth, with unwashed hands
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue (where possible) and wash your hands afterwards
- Avoid close contact with others, such as touching or shaking hands
- Clean surfaces with hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes or a cleaning spray

Public health recommendations are that masks are not needed for illness prevention, unless you are a health care worker or caring for someone with coronavirus.

If prior to or after play, if a player chooses to not shake your hand, please do not be offended and Bowls NSW encourages all players to engage in frequent cleansing of hands.

If you would like further information regarding prevention, the Centre for Disease Control provides a good summary.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Bowls NSW on 02 9283 4555.

David Ellis  
Head of Sport & Operations

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