

CIRCULAR



Subject: Coronavirus (Covid-19)

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Audience: Club Committees, Board

Summary: The League is closely monitoring advice from the AFL and the WA Football Commission regarding how football clubs should deal with coronavirus.	Action: We recommend club officials request of its players and volunteers who have travelled to effected countries do not attend the club for at least 14 days.
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The health and safety of players, umpires, club volunteers and spectators is paramount, therefore the League is closely monitoring advice from the AFL and the WA Football Commission regarding how football clubs should deal with coronavirus.

Current understanding is that Covid-19 is spread from person-to-person when people are in close contact or when an infected person coughs or sneezes, releasing the virus into the air as droplets.

Symptoms of Covid-19 infection typically begin 2-14 days after exposure and include fever, fatigue, muscle aches and cough. More severe symptoms include diarrhea, difficulty breathing, and pneumonia.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent Covid-19 infection, therefore individuals should take precautions to limit exposure and prevent the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Wash or sanitise your hands before eating
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home and seek medical treatment when you are sick
- Cover your mouth to cough or sneeze

Returning from overseas travel

It is highly recommended that anyone who has travelled to Mainland China, Iran, Italy or South Korea (countries listed by the Australian Government's Department of Health) in the last 14 days need to:

- stay at home and self-isolate (do not attend club training)
- monitor your health for the next 14 days

In addition to the above, the Australian Government is recommending people who have travelled to Japan, Mongolia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore or Thailand in the last 14 days and become unwell to seek medical advice and be tested for coronavirus.

We recommend club officials request of its players and volunteers who have travelled to the above countries do not attend the club for at least 14 days.

Government Emergency Response Plan

The Australian Government has activated its Emergency Response Plan to an impending coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19 Plan). At present, the Government has only updated travel warnings and restrictions for the countries listed above, however various meetings of Government are taking place regularly to monitor any changes in the situation and to consider implementing any further measures.

In relation to our League, these measures may include;

- cancelling/restricting large gatherings (i.e. delaying the start of the season)
- cancelling club training
- bringing in "social distancing" measures (quarantining people, cancelling social events)
- implementing infection control guidelines and healthcare safety and quality standards

Coronavirus or not, the days of sweaty hands tipping a cup into bucket of Powerade is no longer hygienic. In the short-term:-

- it would be prudent to have all players be in possession of their own drink bottle.
- place hand sanitisers around the changeroom and encourage players to use them.

We will continue to monitor the status of the Covid-19 Plan and update clubs accordingly.