

Background:

Current government restrictions in place prohibit public gatherings of more than 500 people and the congregation of people. While there has been no official directive or advice to close beaches, SLSQ is putting proactive measures in place to help protect our members, our lifeguards, and the general public.

SLSQ's Board of Directors and State Lifesaving Committee have agreed that all active beach patrols (surf lifesavers and lifeguards) across Queensland will revert to a surveillance service only from this weekend onwards.

SLSQ's operations support, the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service, emergency response groups, SOCC will all remain active and operational during this time.

Additional PPE/Masks have been issued to all clubs and services, along with instructions for use.

What does this mean?

- All surf lifesaving and lifeguard services will move into a surveillance patrols method.
- Clubs should adhere to Section 8 of SLSQ's Patrol Operations Manual regarding procedures for surveillance patrols.
- There is no requirement for placement of red and yellow flags on the beach to mark the designated swimming area.
- Clubs should only be using the minimum number of members required to fulfil surveillance duties.
- Surf lifesavers and lifeguards should make regular public announcements, instructing beachgoers who enter the water that they are doing so at their own risk.
- If any member does not wish to provide volunteer patrols, please contact club captain or patrol captain so arrangements can be made for you to be temporarily removed from the roster.
- Members who fall within 'high-risk' demographics for COVID-19 are encouraged to find suitable replacements.
- All surf lifesavers and lifeguards should practise social distancing, both on and off the beach – e.g. one person in the patrol tower only, and any members within the patrol shelter should remain at least 1.5m apart.
- All relevant SLSQ policies around PPE, hygiene and cleaning should be strictly adhered to at all times.
- Continue to practice self-hygiene – e.g. wash hands regularly, sneeze or cough into elbow.
- Equipment and surfaces should be cleaned at regular intervals across the day and limit to one nominated person to operate equipment where possible (e.g. ATV, iPads).
- Ensure all surf club premises are closed for non-essential activity, including bars, bunkrooms and gyms.
- All non-essential activities, including training and education should be suspended immediately as per circular 41.03.20.
- Additional information can found at www.lifesaving.com.au/covid19

Further questions should be directed to your club captain, regional manager or relevant lifeguard supervisor in the first instance.