

Subject: Patrol Update – COVID-19

Dear all,

In light of current events, the Board of SLSQ and the State Lifesaving Committee have agreed that all beach patrols and lifeguard services across Queensland will revert to a surveillance service from Saturday, 28 March 2020.

- All surf lifesaving and lifeguard services will move into a surveillance patrols method.
- There is no requirement for placement of red and yellow flags on the beach to mark the designated swimming area.

This decision has been made to protect the health and safety of our surf lifesavers and lifeguards, while also seeking to limit the number of people congregating within a confined space between the flags.

Beach surveillance will continue in line with Section 8 of SLSQ's Patrol Operations Manual, and clubs are strongly encouraged to field no more than the minimum number of members required.

Surf lifesavers and lifeguards will have access to all relevant gear and equipment, ensuring they can respond to incidents which may arise.

That said, we want to be very clear in our message to members and lifeguards alike – your personal health and safety should come first at all times.

If any member does not wish to provide volunteer patrols, please contact your club captain and/or patrol captain so arrangements can be made for you to be temporarily removed from the roster.

Should a club not have the minimum number of members or awards required as per their Patrol Services Contract, please advise SOCC as per normal procedure for support.

These are challenging times for us all, and we appreciate the continued support of clubs, branches, and members across Queensland.

An online information hub has been set up at lifesaving.com.au/covid19 to provide all members with regular updates, including information on –

- Social distancing
- Treating patients who may have been exposed to COVID-19
- Current health and safety advice

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide further updates.

Yours in lifesaving,

Mark Fife OAM
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