

Date: 21 April 2020

To: All SLSNZ clubs and members

From: Chris Emmett – Chief Operations Officer SLSNZ

Subject: COVID-19 Memo #9 Alert Level 3 Operational Advice and Clarification

Further to Surf Life Saving New Zealand's (SLSNZ) COVID-19 Memos, SLSNZ in conjunction with Surf Life Saving Northern Region (SLSNR) have produced and linked up the following resources to allow clubs to plan and establish 'Operational Best Practice' at the various Covid-19 Alert Levels.

This memo seeks to clarify various aspects of the 'Surflifesaving Capability/Operational Compliance Matrix' that relates to Alert Level 3. Please use this memo and the matrix in conjunction with the two documents below:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/tables/COVID-19-alert-levels-detailed.pdf>

<https://sportnz.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Play-Recreation-and-Sport-Detailed-Level-1-4-Table.pdf>

Clarification of various Surf Lifesaving aspects of COVID-19 Alert Level 3

- Surf Lifesaving & Club Staff
 - Continue to implement remote working from home, teleconference and remote member support strategies.
 - No staff working from offices or undertaking travel unless authorised by CE, COO, Club Chairperson (for club travel) or part of an 'Essential Service'.
 - i. *Club Chairperson would authorise and necessary club related travel, need to consider the Government Covid-19 table linked.*
- Lifesaving Operations
 - Approved ECOS only, squads need to be; currently registered, tasked only by Police as part of an 'Essential Service' for Category 1 or Category 2 SAR Operations, also need to be COVID-19 PPE compliant.
 - Specific areas will be assessed on an individual basis and case by case patrolling options may be considered.
 - i. *This is an unlikely eventuality given that we are heading into winter, the majority of overseas tourists are out of the country and inter-regional travel is not allowed.*
 - ii. *However, we do have some hot spots that may receive a significant amount to local travel and visitation, we have left the door open to consider options (Observational Patrols), please contact SLSNZ/SLSNR staff first so options can be considered. We may also have to seek permission from the Government.*
- Clubs/Facilities
 - All club facilities closed to general membership unless tasked as per above as an 'Essential Service' or under specific authorisation of Club Chair/Manager on a case by case basis.
 - i. *This allows for exceptions other than an 'essential service' these might include, a member checking if a club alarm is functional etc... however these exceptions need to be within a threshold of:*

- a. *Staying within their bubble.*
 - b. *Members cannot turn up and enter the club without authorised permission.*
 - c. *As per above club facilities are closed so if a person needs to access the club to get equipment it is a one-time only event under Alert Level 3. It would need to be scheduled as to avoid contact with other members.*
- Education/Learning/Training Courses
 - Online Learning only.
 - i. *SLSNZ has made a commitment to increase its range of online learning tools and courses over the next 6-12 months and will make significant investment in this area, further announcements will be made in the area in the coming weeks.*
- Sport/Physical Recreation/Junior Surf
 - No Events.
 - Physical Recreation may occur under the following guidelines;
 - i. it needs to be low risk within a local environment, with a safety plan,
 - a. *Low Risk – is flat water or small surf (under 1m) conditions, within 250m of shore, water temperature & wind considered, clothing must also be appropriate.*
 - b. *Local Environment – is within your town or city area, do not travel across large cities (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch).*
 - c. *Safety Plan – you need a safety plan that considers staying inside your bubble, check-in times if you are on the water, PFD if you are on a Surf Ski, a training buddy/spotter that is either part of your bubble or you maintain physical distance from, a simple self-rescue plan if something goes wrong.*
 - ii. using non-powered individual equipment (Swimming, Boards, Surf Skis),
 - a. *No IRB training, no surf Boats etc...,*
 - iii. physical distancing recommendations need to be observed,
 - a. *Physical distancing is required (i.e. keep ≥ 2 m distance from anyone not in your isolation 'bubble').*
 - iv. focus must be well within existing skill and fitness levels, member must already be competent,
 - a. *Stay within your competency levels, do not try to learn a new skill or take up a new craft, this can be done at Alert Level 2 in a safe coached environment.*
 - v. If club equipment is used the club must ensure existing proficiency/competency.
 - a. *No recreational activities are allowed to be based from a club, the member must either own the equipment themselves or,*
 - b. *if the club lends equipment to members, the clubs must ensure that the member is already competent to safely use the equipment in the expected conditions.*
 - No organised coaching sessions or mixed bubble recreation or training allowed.
 - No Junior Surf.

For all queries relating to this memo, please contact Chris Emmett,
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