

Event and public gathering key messages – coronavirus

Situation as at 11 March 2020

Key messages to send to agencies/event organisers:

- Health authorities are continuing to closely monitor the situation following the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
- Currently there are no known transmissions of the infection in the community in Victoria. All known cases in Victoria are due to travel overseas or through a direct link with a traveller.
- At this point in time our advice around **major events/sporting events/creative events and other public gatherings** is that they can still go ahead, and people should go about their lives as normal.
- We are reviewing the situation every day and will continue to provide up-to-date information to the community and event organisers and let them know if our advice on public gatherings changes.
- We are still in the containment phase of what will likely be a pandemic - but if we start to see large numbers of person to person transmission, we will do whatever is necessary to minimise the spread of infection and keep Victorians safe.
- This is a rapidly changing situation and communications will continue to be updated as the situation unfolds. Additional cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 are expected in Victoria as this illness continues to spread across the world.
- **Events/venues/clubs** can help keep their **visitors/fans/members** healthy by encouraging them to practice good hygiene.
- There are a range of resources available for download from the DHHS website, including printable posters and factsheets on practicing good hygiene.
- The Department of Health and Human Services is working around the clock with health services, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, and international agencies to respond to the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and to keep the Victorian community safe.
- For the latest information, visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Key messages that agencies/event organisers can provide to the public:

- Health authorities are continuing to closely monitor the situation following the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
- Currently there are no known transmissions of the infection in the community in Victoria. All known cases in Victoria are due to travel overseas or through a direct link with a traveller.
- At this point in time our advice around **major events/sporting events/creative events and other public gatherings** is that they can still go ahead, and people should go about their lives as normal.
- If you are feeling unwell, you should not attend public gatherings or events.
- If you have been in close contact with someone who has coronavirus disease (COVID-19) stay at home (self-quarantine). If you are concerned, please call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.
- The easiest way to protect yourself and event attendees is to pay attention to good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.

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- Wash hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. Dry with paper towel or hand dryer.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- You do not need to wear a face mask if you are well.
- Buying an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60 per cent alcohol is recommended.
- For the virus to spread, extended close personal contact is most likely required. But visitors to locations where cases have been should be aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Close personal contact is at least 15 minutes face-to-face or more than 2 hours in the same room.
- If you are not in a group at risk group of contracting COVID-19, you should go about your daily life and travel, work or study as normal.
- This includes continuing to use public transport, cars, taxis, hire cars, ridesharing, cycling or walking in public places.
- Businesses, tourism operators and sporting clubs remain open for business and need the support of the community at this time more than ever.
- For the latest information, visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Additional messaging:

- Hosting major events bring broad benefits to the state by promoting Melbourne and Victoria to the world, driving tourism, creating investment attraction and contributing to the vibrancy and liveability of Victoria.
- There has never been a better time to support local tourism operators/venues/events and enjoy the amazing range of experiences Victoria has to offer.
- Victorians are encouraged to get active and to continue participating in their favourite sport or recreation pastime.
- Getting active and participating in sport, whether it's on or off the field, provides a range of physical, mental and social benefits - and helps to keep communities connected.

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