



## Circular 026:20

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**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Subject:** Statement on COVID-19

**Attention:** All Clubs and Members

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Circulars are available at <http://lifesaving.org.nz/lifesaving/lifesaving-operations-circulars/>

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Dear Clubs and Members,

Recently we have seen a number of communications coming out in relation to the ever-changing corona virus (COVID -19) situation across the world, and within New Zealand.

Surf Life Saving Northern Region is working to be proactive in its planning and actions, and has worked closely with SLSNZ, Lifesaving Victoria and Surf Life Saving New South Wales to ensure there is a robust and adaptable plan that will guide us through the next few months. From an operational perspective, we wanted to outline the recommendations moving forward and highlight the some key information for over the next few weeks.

**Patrols/Protocols key points:**

Joint information will be coming out this week from SLSNZ/NR with more detailed COVID-19 information however in the interim we have the below recommendations.

**Patrols/Protocols key points:**

- At SLSNR, we are asking you maintain your 'status quo' in relation to patrols on beaches.
- SLSNR recommend that all other non-essential programmes, events and trainings be postponed for the near future. (This includes Junior Surf, any club gatherings or overnight stay)
- The risk to patrolling members in the patrolling environments can be mitigated if they follow key safety messaging that is available from [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)

If there is a requirement to make an application to adapt or modify patrols we would ask that this be communicated to the Operations Manager – Alan Gibson so that all appropriate channels can be updated. This will then prompt a discussion with the Lifesaving Manager, Club Chair and Head of Lifesaving from your club to ensure we fully understand your circumstance and reason for adapting patrols.

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We would emphasize that this approach is two-fold:

- 1) We are utilising the most recent and relevant advice and information to ensure the wellbeing of our members.
- 2) We are not ignoring the safety requirement of the NZ public at our beaches.

Should government advice dictate we are to go to unmanned beaches, SLSNR will communicate this to all Clubs as well as ensuring there is a media brief to highlight changes.

We need to be proactive in our approach as first responders to ensure we are acting appropriately. Thank you for all you are doing and for your professional and considered approach in the delivery of what is a vital and ever-changing service.

If you or any of your members have any questions, please do not hesitate to make contact with the Member Services Team at SLSNR.

Please keep up to date with the latest information, which can be found at:

- 1) <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>
- 2) <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Regards

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