



Coronavirus (Covid-19) & Neighbourhood Houses

The situation with Covid -19 is changing daily and as a result people are seeking guidance on how to deal with potential infection in their communities. As the Peak Body, NHT would like to provide the following information sourced from various health organisations.

Quick Facts about Covid-19 -

- 🏠 It is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus
- 🏠 Symptoms range from a mild cough to pneumonia
- 🏠 Some people recover easily, others may get very sick very quickly
- 🏠 There is evidence that it spreads from person to person
- 🏠 Good hygiene can prevent infection
- 🏠 There is a dedicated hotline **1800 671 738** if you suspect you have been infected

Important Information Sources:

Firstly, here are links to check on the latest advice, alerts and access resources:

- 🏠 Department of Health, Tasmania - www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/news/2020/coronavirus_update
- 🏠 Department of Health, Federal - www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert?fbclid=IwAR1zB1aKj8ljd44ii8bQEvCAI8famTVi6_AYhZ7-X5RLw90gHk6dX0ar54
- 🏠 World Health Organisation (WHO) - www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public

A Guide to how to act during the Covid-19 situation:

It is important that Houses continue to provide their services to the community while being mindful of appropriate health and hygiene precautions. Recommendations for enacting this include:

- 🏠 Advising people including staff who come to your House to be respectful and stay away from the House including activities, programs and services, if -
 - they are unwell or have recently been overseas
 - they feel unwell or have been in contact with someone who is unwell especially if they have been overseas
 - you might want to do this via newsletters, social media and a sign at the door
- 🏠 Suggest that staff and attendees who feel unwell to contact their GP or phone the Public Health Hotline (1800 671 738) and that they call the doctor's clinic or hospital before visiting and advise them that they will be attending. If they test positive for the virus ask them to notify the House as soon as possible

- 🏠 Have soap and/or hand sanitiser readily available at main points especially in the kitchen, bathroom and other high use areas. You may want to consider putting sanitising wipes in the computer area
- 🏠 Put up signs about the above and how to wash your hands from the Tasmanian Department of Health or other sources in obvious places.
- 🏠 Encourage everyone to get the flu shot (available April).

Recommendations:

At this point we would suggest that Houses:

- 🏠 Keep calm and don't stress
- 🏠 Regularly monitor NHT's Facebook and website together with the ones listed above
- 🏠 Encourage people who may become isolated due to quarantine or fear of the virus to keep in touch with the House via phone or electronically, so that you don't lose contact with them and you can assist if something arises.

Frequently Ask Questions:

Should we be restricting people attending Neighbourhood Houses?

Anyone who meets the follow criteria should not attend:

- 🏠 **Left or transited through mainland China, Iran, Italy or South Korea** in the last 14 days.
- 🏠 **Been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus** in the last 14 days.
- 🏠 **Are showing any cold or flu-like symptoms**

Should the Neighbourhood House remain open?

- 🏠 While NHT can guide Houses on how to interact with their communities any decision regarding shut down will need to come from your own Management Committee or the Government.

What are our employment obligations?

- 🏠 For advice or information on what to do if staff are placed in quarantine or unable to work due to the closure of the House please visit Fair Work Ombudsman - <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/website-news/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws>

NHT will keep updating this information as often as possible. Please contact us with any questions or concerns and we will do our best to assist.
