

12 March 2020

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STAFF, MEMBERS, PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, EVENT ATTENDEES, SPONSORS AND SUPPLIERS

This advice is regarding COVID-19 (formerly known as novel coronavirus) for the attention of LG Professionals SA employees, members, program participants, event attendees, sponsors and suppliers.

Please note this information is current as of today's date. We encourage you to stay updated via the Australian Government Department of Health website [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

While the number of cases of COVID-19 is currently small in Australia, it is possible that this situation could change at any time, and it is vital that you are prepared and have a plan in place for a change in situation. Coronavirus (COVID-19) 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. Surgical masks in the community are only helpful in preventing people who have coronavirus disease from spreading it to others. If you are well, you do not need to wear a surgical mask as there is little evidence supporting the widespread use of surgical masks in healthy people to prevent transmission in public. Everyone should practise good hygiene to protect against infections.

Good hygiene includes:

- washing your hands often with soap and water
- using a tissue and covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze
- avoiding close contact with others, such as touching including handshakes

### ***Who is most at risk of a serious illness?***

From previous experience with other coronaviruses, the people at most risk of serious infection are:

- people with compromised immune systems, such as people with cancer
- elderly people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- very young children and babies, and
- people with diagnosed chronic medical conditions.

**Information updated 12 March 2020**

***How can we help prevent the spread of coronavirus?***

See attached flyers from the World Health Organization. We should all be familiar with these and print and display wherever we consider necessary. Please do not attend work or our events if you are unwell and see your doctor as soon as possible. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

***Flu Prevention Reminder***

At present there is no vaccine for COVID-19, however the annual flu vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the impact of influenza in the community. A new flu vaccine is needed each year because flu vaccines are changed to try to match current strains. LG Professionals SA employees are reminded that the flu vaccination is provided free of charge each year.

***Our programs and events***

At this stage we have no plans to cancel any planned programs or events and encourage you to register and plan your professional development as usual. Should this change, we will advise all registered delegates and consider appropriate arrangements such as deferring or rescheduling at that time. We are a small Association and thank you for your continued interest, engagement and support.

***More information***

For the latest advice, information and resources visit [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) or call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you require translating or interpreting services, call 131 450.

