**Live Performance Australia – Member News**

**9th March, 2020**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Member Advice Update #3
A Message from the CEO**

* Latest update and official resources
* Advice for members - public events, prevention and management
* Government stimulus package

**Current situation**

As at 11:30am on 8 March 2020, ​there are [74 confirmed cases](https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert) of COVID-19 in Australia, with 22 of these people now fully recovered and 3 deaths.

Globally, there have been more than 105,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 3,500 reported deaths. The majority of cases and deaths have been reported from mainland China. The majority of new cases continue to be reported from South Korea, Italy and Iran.

**Public events and mass gatherings**

On 8 March, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee issued [recommendations regarding public events](https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-coronavirus-covid-19-statement-on-8-march-2020) - specifically that:

* public events should proceed as planned, as the risk to the general population from COVID-19 is low
* people that are unwell with cough or fever or other respiratory symptoms **should not attend** public events or gatherings
* people who have been a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, or who returned from or transited through a [listed higher risk country](http://www.health.gov.au/covid19-countries), **must not attend** public gatherings until 14 days after leaving the country or having contact with a confirmed case even if they are completely symptom free

These recommendations are consistent with previous "business as usual" messages conveyed by the federal Chief Medical Officer and state and territory governments:

* [**NSW Health**](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/coronavirus-faqs.aspx#1-9-2) - refer to the FAQ (which was released after LPA's Member update on 6 March) *"Should I avoid attending public events, for example, religious celebrations, music festivals or sporting matches?"*
* [**QLD Health**](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/diseases/coronavirus/public-info-novel-coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions-novel-coronavirus) - refer to FAQ*"Should any public events or mass gatherings be cancelled?"*

**Prevention and management**

There are restrictions for travellers arriving from China, Iran, and South Korea, and enhanced screening for travellers who have been to Italy. The Government has issued travel warnings for China and Iran (do not travel), South Korea (reconsider your need to travel), and Japan, Italy and Mongolia (exercise high degree of caution).

There is [comprehensive advice](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov?utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=84361481&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_YQQLcW2On0E1dCd0MzkGkT29PRSqRJrskAdVsrVibwVt-KDKw6sNPkhX5ab7OnzP_iaIhQgzDvzscR-haY5vqUo2N5jMYYR06jY5ZVAF8YeyvRq0&_hsmi=84361481) available from the Commonwealth Department of Health online. This includes advice on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and how to identify and manage symptoms.

Governments are taking a highly precautionary and targeted approach where required to contain the spread of the virus.

**Good hygiene the best defence**

The best defence against the spread of COVID-19 is good hygiene practice. This 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

People who have been in coronavirus-affected areas or exposed to confirmed cases must absolutely follow the guidance on self-isolation which are [set out here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance?utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=84361481&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_YQQLcW2On0E1dCd0MzkGkT29PRSqRJrskAdVsrVibwVt-KDKw6sNPkhX5ab7OnzP_iaIhQgzDvzscR-haY5vqUo2N5jMYYR06jY5ZVAF8YeyvRq0&_hsmi=84361481).

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide further updates and advice.

Evelyn Richardson

LPA Chief Executive