



Bowls Victoria: navigating a return to play, COVID guidelines for Bowls Clubs

Key introductory points:

- Information is changing rapidly, be sure to check the BV website, Facebook page and DHHS for updates.
- Check with your local council for any rules they may have.
- There can be different rules where clubs are interstate but affiliated with BV, awareness of the local rules is a must.
- At all times, keep safe and use common-sense.
- If any member is unwell, tell them to get tested and not attend the club.
- Be patient with others, particularly those who are trying to construct/interpret rules and regulations.

The following pages are designed to complement the guidelines on the BV, DHHS and SRV websites.

UPDATED: 13 October 2020 (V1)

Topic of advice	Metropolitan Melbourne (Step 2 as of 13 October 2020)	Regional Victoria (Step 3 as of 13 October 2020)
Masks	No play is permitted.	<p>There is some contradiction in the guidelines from DHHS which will be updated when clarified.</p> <p>Bowls Victoria recommends the use of a facemask in a safe and responsible manner.</p> <p>DHHS have provided an update on Face masks from 11 October which is shown on the link below. https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-masks-vic-covid-19</p> <p>The DHHS Industry Restart Guidelines state the following:</p> <p><i>All workers, volunteers and participants must wear a face mask at all times with the two exceptions noted below.</i></p> <p><i>A face mask is not required while undertaking strenuous exercise or playing community sport.</i></p> <p><i>You do have to carry a face mask with you so you can wear it before or after exercising, unless you have a lawful exception.</i></p> <p>https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Industry-Restart-Guidelines-Community-Sport-and-Recreation.pdf</p> <p>Wearing a face covering protects you/your community by providing an additional physical barrier to COVID-19.</p> <p>Where a person has a lawful excuse not to wear a mask, the club takes no responsibility in any fine or sanction applied under law to the individual (e.g. by the Police).</p>

<p>Masks and eating, drinking or smoking</p>	<p>No play is permitted.</p>	<p>Can I remove my face covering to smoke or use an e-cigarette? Yes, subject to existing restrictions on smoking in public places in Victoria. A person may remove their face covering to smoke or use an e-cigarette, but must put a face covering back on as soon as they finish.</p> <p>The hand-to-mouth action of smoking and e-cigarette use means that people who smoke may be more vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19), as they are touching their face and mouth more often. You should wash your hands as soon as you finish and not share an individual cigarette or vaping device.</p> <p>Can I take my face covering off when eating or drinking? Yes. You can take your face covering off when eating or drinking. You should maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres and practise good hygiene. Eating and drinking should not be used as an excuse not to wear a face covering. You must use common sense and wear a face covering at all times where possible.</p> <p>Do I need to put on a new face covering if I take it off to eat or drink? If you are using a mask, it is best if you put on a new face covering to avoid the risk of contamination from touching the front of the face covering. If it is not possible, make sure to wash your hands with soap and water before you put on your face covering.</p> <p>If you are using a reusable mask you should carry a paper bag or zip lock bag with you to carry clean masks and keep them clean. If it is not possible, make sure to wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel before you put on your face covering.</p>
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<p>Access to the clubhouse</p>	<p>No access is permitted.</p>	<p>Permitted under step 3, with restrictions on the number of persons permitted indoors, currently a maximum of 20, with up to 10 per separate space.</p> <p>Minimise use of communal facilities (toilet or medical use only with strict social distancing).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean bathrooms more frequently than lower traffic areas, especially taps, door handles and other frequently touched points. • Take all reasonable steps to ensure that frequently touched surfaces accessible to members of the public, including tables, bars, chairs, toilets and handrails, are cleaned regularly including when visibly soiled and post events or between groups. • Cleaning principles can be found via the SafeWork Australia website which should help as a reference point to what cleaning guidelines are recommended. https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/cleaning-table-covid19-2september2020.pdf <p>You must ensure you're cleaning and sanitising the following, regardless of COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all eating and drinking utensils and all food contact surfaces. <p>We advise you to review your cleaning and sanitising practices to ensure general surfaces are also cleaned frequently and effectively. These include door handles,</p>

		<p>refrigerator handles, tap handles, switches and other high-touch areas.</p> <p>Cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces regularly can help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First step is cleaning, which means wiping dirt and germs off a surface. You can use common household detergent products stocked at supermarkets for cleaning. • Second step is to disinfect the surface. Supermarkets stock common household disinfection products – it is important to use products that are labelled "disinfectant" and to follow the instructions on the label. <p>Dedicate separate bathroom facilities for each separate room or area of a venue, where possible. Install signage to make members of the public aware of which bathroom to use.</p>
Social distancing	No play is permitted.	<p>All players should keep 1.5m apart at all times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refrain from shaking hands, high-fives or any contact with others.
Number of players	No play is permitted	<p>Outdoor non-contact sport can resume for adults, limited to the minimum number of people required for the activity (e.g. players, necessary coaches and umpires). People must keep 1.5m apart at all times.</p> <p>This means that if a club has 2 x pennant teams of 16 players, then they can conduct bowls with 64 players at their venue (2 x 16 = 32 players from the Home team, and 32 from the Away team).</p>

		<p>Clubs should consider how breaks will be managed given restrictions to clubhouse entry and may elect not to have a break. Additionally, staggered starting times should be considered to ease congestion of foot traffic.</p> <p>There are no requirements on minimum space between rinks but clubs must set up their venue to ensure players can keep 1.5m apart at all times and can use the bank and surrounds to assist.</p> <p>Clubs and players should also consider options for inclement weather.</p>
<p>Sanitising and hygiene</p>	<p>Good hygiene is critical for slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Everyone should be taking the following hygiene actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands • Wash your hands regularly with for at least 20 seconds, using soap and water or use a hand sanitiser that contains at least 70 percent alcohol. • Wash your hands when you get home, arrive at other people’s homes, at venues or at work. • Wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or using the toilet. <p>https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-covid-19</p>	<p>Good hygiene is critical for slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Everyone should be taking the following hygiene actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands • Wash your hands regularly with for at least 20 seconds, using soap and water or use a hand sanitiser that contains at least 70 percent alcohol. • Wash your hands when you get home, arrive at other people’s homes, at venues or at work. • Wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or using the toilet. <p>https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-covid-19</p> <p>All attendees shall sanitise their hands upon arrival and leaving the venue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads shall also sanitise their hands after every end prior to picking up the mat and jack • All other players should sanitise their hands after every 6 ends.

<p style="text-align: center;">Travel, Transport and Carpooling</p>	<p>No play is permitted and therefore no need to travel.</p>	<p>The DHHS website states:</p> <p>Can I have passengers in my car? Where possible, carrying passengers in your car should be avoided, unless they live in your household or are part of your bubble.</p> <p>The enclosed space of a car presents a heightened risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).</p> <p>The DHHS website further states: <i>Do I need to wear a face covering when I am driving?</i></p> <p><i>If you are driving alone or only travelling with people from your household, you do not need to wear a face covering. You must put your face covering on before you leave your vehicle or if you wind down the window to talk to someone, including at a drive through to collect food or goods where being served by another person.</i></p> <p><i>If you are driving with people for work or people you don't live with then you must wear a face covering unless you have a lawful excuse.</i></p> <p><i>For clarification if you don't have a licence or have a legitimate reason for not being able to drive then you are able to travel with another person. The passenger is required to travel in the rear seat diagonally across from the driver to ensure 1.5m separation is achieved. Masks must be worn.</i></p> <p><i>You must wear a face covering if you are a passenger or driver in a commercial vehicle such as a taxi or Uber, unless you have a lawful excuse.</i></p>
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<p align="center">‘COVID Marshal’ or ‘COVID Officer’</p>	<p>No play is permitted and no COVID Marshal required.</p>	<p>Clubs must have a designated COVID Marshal on duty at all times.</p> <p>A COVID Marshal must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be 18 years of age or over. • Complete training and keep records of the training to provide to an authorised officer on request. • Take reasonable steps to visually identify as a COVID Marshal. <p>A COVID Marshal is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and ensure infection control practices (e.g. frequent hand washing) are followed. • Promote and take practical steps to ensure people* participating in the operations are complying with density requirements as per guidelines. • Promote and take practical steps to ensure people are physical distancing, comply with the 1.5 metre rule. • Ensure that all COVID Safe Plans and COVID Management Plans (where relevant) or specific polices/protocols in relation to the prevention of coronavirus are effectively implemented and monitored. • Ensure that the operation has sufficient seating, hand washing facilities and cleaning regimes. <p>Other resources can be found here: https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport#covid-19_safety_coordinator</p>
<p align="center">Spectators</p>	<p>No play is permitted and therefore there is nothing to spectate.</p>	<p>Spectators are only allowed if they are coaching, umpiring, or supervising children or if needed as support persons for persons with additional needs and exercising appropriate distancing requirements.</p>

		If present, spectators must not gather in groups of more than 10.
Members and non-members	No play is permitted.	Members are permitted to play. Non-members are permitted to play.
Breaks in play	No play is permitted.	<p>The historical tea break is not recommended in the current circumstances with the mandatory distancing requirements needed and the limit on numbers currently allowed inside Club rooms. Clubs need to be mindful that the allowed 10 persons inside includes all volunteers, players and anyone else accessing the Club interiors for whatever reason and at any one time.</p> <p>Should any Club consider they can have a workable alternative arrangement that would allow them to provide a tea break outside of the Club Rooms than it is their responsibility to mutually arrange such with the visiting Club/Clubs.</p> <p>BV's recommendation is that Clubs consider playing straight through over 21 ends and that such be allowed with the Playing areas/Divisions Conditions of Play. This must be arranged prior to the commencement of any play and agreed on by both Clubs.</p> <p>A short break of 10 minutes can be arranged during the play period but this would be at differing times for each rink so as to not create a crowding and distancing issue.</p> <p>Breaks for bad weather and potential rain periods could cause a major concern for some home Clubs. Players will need to be able to seek whatever cover is available during any rain delay being mindful of social distancing</p>

		<p>requirements. If the available covered area is limited then Managers and Umpires may need to make an early decision on cancellation of play.</p> <p>Players should be prepared for inclement weather which may include rain-coats and/or spray jacket and/or an umbrella.</p>
Types of competitions	No play is permitted.	<p>Outdoor non-contact sport can resume for adults, limited to the minimum number of people required for the activity (e.g. players, necessary coaches and umpires). People must keep 1.5m apart at all times.</p> <p>Pennant: can occur as per the comment above. Social play: can occur as per the comment above. Training/Practice/Roll-ups: can occur as per the comment above. Club Championships: can occur as per the comment above. Tournaments: can occur as per the comment above. Barefoot bowls: we are seeking clarity on this topic from Government.</p>
Equipment (mats and jacks etc)	No play is permitted.	<p>All equipment must be sanitised when placed out by the home side and also by the lead bowlers prior to them commencing the end.</p> <p>Spray chalk and liquid chalk must be the only markers used.</p> <p>Players are not to touch other players bowls unless of absolute necessity. If such does occur further hand sanitising is required immediately.</p> <p>The handling of the mat and kitty is to be limited as much as possible to the leads.</p>

		<p>Leads' should use hand sanitiser prior to picking up the jack and the mat to commence the next end. Once the jack is rolled the Skip at the other end is to straighten it with his or her foot. Should the jack go into the ditch or out of bounds such should be collected with a lifter and returned as necessary. Prior to further delivery the lead bowler will need to sanitise their hands.</p> <p>Under no circumstances can bowls be shared.</p> <p>The home team should supply one player per rink responsible for updating the scoreboard. Away teams should not touch the scoreboard.</p> <p>Pens to keep score should not be shared. For Regional areas not yet using BowlsLink and therefore still completing the yellow pennant-check forms, they are to be completed by the Home team only.</p>
<p>Contract tracing register</p>	<p>No play is permitted.</p>	<p>To support contact tracing, Clubs must request that each person who attends the premise for more than 15 minutes (including staff) provide (clubs can elect to record all persons regardless of the duration they spend in the club):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First name and Last name • Phone number <p>Clubs must keep a record of those details, and the date and time at which the person attended the facility. Where the patrons spend most of their time in a single space (i.e. a dining room), a record of the space used should also be kept. There is no need to keep multiple records if patrons move through multiple spaces. Records can be kept electronically or in hard copy. Records should be kept for 28 days.</p>

		Records should be destroyed after 28 days. Pens used to record details should be wiped with an alcohol wipe between users.
Green and surrounds Maintenance	<p>Under the new restrictions, greenkeepers can continue to carry out their work. The guidelines state, 'essential maintenance for safety and upkeep of public and recreational spaces, such as parks, gardens, golf courses' is permitted, with a COVID-Safe plan.</p> <p>For clubs with a paid greenkeeper, please carefully consider their contract(s) and/or employment law for guidance. Link to relevant Worksafe items are shown below:</p> <p>https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/creating-a-covidsafe-workplace</p> <p>https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/minimising-spread-coronavirus-covid-19-working-home</p> <p>https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/exposure-coronavirus-workplaces</p>	<p>Under the new restrictions, greenkeepers can continue to carry out their work. The guidelines state, 'essential maintenance for safety and upkeep of public and recreational spaces, such as parks, gardens, golf courses' is permitted, with a COVID-Safe plan.</p> <p>For clubs with a paid greenkeeper, please carefully consider their contract(s) and/or employment law for guidance. Link to relevant Worksafe items are shown below:</p> <p>https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/creating-a-covidsafe-workplace</p> <p>https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/minimising-spread-coronavirus-covid-19-working-home</p> <p>https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/exposure-coronavirus-workplaces</p>
Meals and drinks	<p>The rules regarding meals are constantly changing and clubs should consult the DHHS website referring to the hospitality and club guidelines.</p> <p>https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/cafes-and-restaurants-regional-victoria-third-step-covid-19</p> <p>Restaurants and cafes in Clubs within metropolitan Melbourne are closed for dining. Clubs can still serve takeaway food or drinks — but patrons can only pick it up if the restaurant/club is within 5 km of their home.</p>	<p>The rules regarding meals are constantly changing and clubs should consult the DHHS website referring to the hospitality and club guidelines.</p> <p>https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/cafes-and-restaurants-regional-victoria-third-step-covid-19</p> <p>Restaurants, cafes, pubs and other hospitality venues can serve up to 10 patrons per indoor space — if patrons are seated. A single venue can have a maximum of 2 spaces,</p>

	<p>Home delivery is allowed and restaurants can deliver further than 5kms.</p>	<p>with up to 20 patrons in total per venue. There can't be more than 1 person per 4 square metres.</p> <p>Venues can serve up to 50 people outdoors — if patrons are seated and there's no more than 1 person per 2 square metres.</p> <p>A group of customers can't exceed 10 people.</p> <p>Groups must be spaced at least 1.5 metres apart. Staff must clean tables after patrons leave. Clubs must keep patrons' contact details and take reasonable steps to ensure they don't live in metropolitan Melbourne.</p> <p>Home delivery is allowed and restaurants can deliver further than 5kms.</p>
<p>Temperature checks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No play is permitted. 	<p>Temperature checks of members and visitors may be useful as an added precaution in high-risk places such as hospitals and aged care facilities. This helps protect the vulnerable people in those settings.</p> <p>If the scanner's reading result is within the normal range of body temperature (equal to or less than 37.3°C) then it is considered safe to allow access to the location. If a person's temperature is equal to or in excess of 37.4°C, the designated screener must follow the procedure to manage a person with symptoms and the person will not be allowed to enter the location to commence work. The person shall be placed in an approved location until reassessment occurs.</p> <p>But temperature checks aren't always an accurate way of knowing whether someone has COVID-19. This is because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people with COVID-19 don't always have a fever

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • various other medical conditions or infection can cause a fever, not just COVID-19 • fever can go up and down during an infection or after taking medication—it might be down at the time of the check. • Temperature gauge calibration might not be 100% accurate.
Shared facilities – toilets	No clubs are currently open.	<p>Minimise use of communal facilities (toilet or medical use only with strict social distancing).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean bathrooms more frequently than lower traffic areas, especially taps, door handles and other frequently touched points. • Take all reasonable steps to ensure that frequently touched surfaces accessible to members of the public, including tables, bars, chairs, toilets and handrails, are cleaned regularly including when visibly soiled and post events or between groups. • Cleaning principles can be found via the SafeWork Australia website which should help as a reference point to what cleaning guidelines are recommended. https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/cleaning-table-covid19-2september2020.pdf
Bins	No play is permitted and therefore no facilities are required.	Ensure there are plenty of bins situated around the facilities and cleaned regularly.
Shared facilities – water fountains	No play is permitted and therefore no facilities are required.	Water fountains are not to be used until further notice. Clubs can provide or sell bottled water. Members can bring their own subject to the rules of the club.

<p>Use of club cutlery, crockery etc</p>	<p>No play is permitted and therefore no facilities are required.</p>	<p>Venues may continue to use their cutlery, crockery and beverage containers with appropriate hygiene, cleaning and sanitation processes in place https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services</p> <p>How often should surfaces be cleaned? This should be done regularly (at least twice a day) for high-touch surfaces, between users, and immediately after spills. Surfaces and fittings should also be cleaned immediately when visibly soiled. See Cleaning and disinfecting to reduce coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission - tips for business and construction sites.</p> <p>Personal items used in the workplace, such as glasses and phones, should be cleansed and disinfected frequently (e.g. by using isopropyl alcohol wipes).</p> <p>Workplace amenities, including kitchens, lunchrooms, communal areas, change rooms, toilets, drink fountains and vending machines, should also be regularly cleaned. https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services</p> <p>Are smoking areas allowed? Yes. However, no food or drink is permitted in these areas. These areas count towards density quotients/patron caps.</p> <p>You must also take into account the requirements of the Tobacco Act, which are set out on the BetterHealth website and COVIDSafe measures such as social distancing must be adhered to in these areas. https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services</p>
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<p>Bringing meals from home</p>	<p>No play is permitted and therefore no meals are required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No communal food/drinks shall be supplied by clubs. Players and officials shall either bring their own personal drinks/food or purchase at any available canteen/kiosk. • Any food brought to the match should be in a sealed or pre-packaged container. <p>Canteens, kiosks or at-venue dining facilities may be opened in line with 'industry restart hospitality guidelines' including the 'four and two square metre rule' and density poster signage. Check with your council for assistance if required.</p> <p>Home Clubs to provide tea and coffee facilities as their facilities permit. Individual players to provide their own food/water.</p> <p>Cash can still be accepted as payment, but it is strongly recommended that all clubs use contactless payments.</p> <p>https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services</p>
<p>Shared facilities – tea/coffee stations</p>	<p>No play is permitted and therefore no facilities are required.</p>	<p>Shared/Communal tea and coffee stations are not to be used until further notice. Clubs can provide or tea or coffee (i.e. served by volunteers/staff and not for general member use). Members can bring their own subject to the rules of the club.</p>
<p>Signage requirements</p>	<p>Clubs should display all signage as per DHHS guidelines.</p> <p>Copies of some posters are available for download from the following link: https://www.bowlsvic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Club-Poster-COVID-19-Step-3-Regional.pdf</p>	<p>Clubs should display all signage as per DHHS guidelines.</p> <p>Copies of a selection of posters are available for download from the following link: https://www.bowlsvic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Club-Poster-COVID-19-Step-3-Regional.pdf</p>

<p>AGMs</p>	<p>Not possible in person and should be undertaken online or delayed until safe</p>	<p>Outdoor AGMs can occur for up to 50 persons which is an opportunity to conduct an AGM in person (subject to physical distancing of 1.5m).</p> <p>Online meetings can also occur which your RBM can assist you to set up.</p>
<p>Should the club provide sanitiser?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>HAND SANITISER (ALCOHOL-BASED ANTIBACTERIAL WITH MINIMUM 70% ALCOHOL (ETHANOL))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol-based hand sanitisers - min. 70% alcohol (ethanol) content must be readily available at facilities for all training/games. • Soap/Handwash must be readily available in all bathrooms/toilets. • Clubs must ensure that frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g. tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) are cleaned regularly when in use. <p>Ensure signs that can't be secured, and club-based sanitiser are safely stored. If the club stores large quantities of sanitiser check with the manufacturer for storage instructions as the Dangerous Goods Act 1985 (Vic) has required protocols for the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids with respect to hand sanitiser. To reduce the likelihood of excess storage at the club consider each team storing some sanitiser for match day offsite.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>HAND SANITISER (ALCOHOL-BASED ANTIBACTERIAL WITH MINIMUM 70% ALCOHOL (ETHANOL))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol-based hand sanitisers - min. 70% alcohol (ethanol) content must be readily available at facilities for all training/games. • Soap/Handwash must be readily available in all bathrooms/toilets. • Clubs must ensure that frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g. tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) are cleaned regularly when in use. <p>Ensure signs that can't be secured, and club-based sanitiser are safely stored. If the club stores large quantities of sanitiser check with the manufacturer for storage instructions as the Dangerous Goods Act 1985 (Vic) has required protocols for the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids with respect to hand sanitiser. To reduce the likelihood of excess storage at the club consider each team storing some sanitiser for match day offsite.</p>
<p>What to do if someone contracts COVID</p>	<p>Anyone who is unwell should not be at a club/workplace. If anyone develops symptoms at the club/work such as fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, you should ask them to seek medical advice.</p>	<p>Anyone who is unwell should not be at a club/workplace. If anyone develops symptoms at the club/work such as fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, you should ask them to seek medical advice.</p>

	<p>It is important to remember that if a person becomes sick with these symptoms at work they may be suffering from a cold, the flu or other respiratory illness and not COVID-19.</p> <p>For the full list of steps to take, visit: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/office/covid-19-your-workplace</p>	<p>It is important to remember that if a person becomes sick with these symptoms at work they may be suffering from a cold, the flu or other respiratory illness and not COVID-19.</p> <p>For the full list of steps to take, visit: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/office/covid-19-your-workplace</p>
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