



Bowls Victoria: returning to play after snap lockdown 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: 27 July 2021

Topic of advice	Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria (as of 27 July 2021)
Number of persons in the venue	<p>In general, the venue cap has been set at 300 persons with no more than 100 indoors pending the Density Quotient.</p> <p>Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm. COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure attendees check-in</p> <p>Group limit of 10 people for Physical Recreation. Community Sport however, is limited to the minimum number of people required to participate in and facilitate the activity (i.e. players, coaches, umpires etc).</p> <p>Spectators are not allowed.</p> <p>See also the guidance titled “Types of Competitions”</p>
Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be carried at all times • Must be worn indoors except if at home, or if an exemption applies • For the sport of bowls, a mask must be worn and should only be lowered to enable a player to play their shot, communicate game play (tactics or instructions), to momentarily regain composure if a player is short of breath or any other valid safety reason. • Wearing a face covering protects you/your community by providing an additional physical barrier to COVID-19. • 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). • When playing in NSW located clubs, NSW law applies.
Masks and eating, drinking or smoking	<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?</p>

	<p>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> <p>You should always wash your hands before and after changing your face covering.</p>
<p>Access to the clubhouse</p>	<p>Permitted under hospitality guidelines, see the DHHS website for details and section below “Meals and Drinks”.</p> <p>In general, 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, 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>
<p>Social distancing</p>	<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.
<p>Number of players</p>	<p>Physical recreation & sport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open. Maximum patron cap of 100 people per space indoors and 300 per space outdoors • Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm. COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure attendees check-in • Group limit of 10 people <p>Community sport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for all ages, training and competition. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies • Limited to minimum number of people required to participate in and facilitate the activity (i.e. players, coaches) <p>Spectators not allowed (excludes people necessary for events such as teachers, instructors, trainers, coaches, umpires, carers, parents and guardians).</p> <p>This means that if a club has 2 x pennant teams of 16 players, and another 7 persons vying for positions, then they can conduct training for the 39 persons and can play matches involving the number of players required to play the game.</p> <p>See also "Number of Persons in the Venue"</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 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 (where permitted), at venues or at work. • Wash your hands after eating, drinking, 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 after every 6 ends.
Bins	Ensure there are plenty of bins situated around the facilities and cleaned regularly.
Shared facilities – water fountains	Water fountains are not required to be closed, but are also not recommended. Clubs can provide or sell bottled water. Members can bring their own subject to the rules of the club.
Travel, Transport and Carpooling	<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>
Members and non-members	<p>Members are permitted to play.</p> <p>Non-members are permitted to play.</p>
Spectators	<p>Spectators are not permitted. Carers or parents are excluded when supervising their child/adult.</p>
Types of competitions	<p>Practice and Competition play can recommence including social bowls, tournaments, pennant and all other forms of competition.</p> <p>Open for all ages, training and competition, but must be within venue caps.</p>
Equipment (mats and jacks etc)	<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/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. Barefoot bowls must only be used by one person and then sanitised at the end of the session before being used again.</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>QR Codes and/or Contract tracing register</p>	<p>To support contact tracing, Clubs must ensure that each person who attends scans in using the Governments Service App (QR code) or as a last resort record the details manually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First name and Last name • Phone number <p>Records can be kept electronically or in hard copy. Records should be kept for 28 days.</p> <p>Records should be destroyed after 28 days.</p> <p>Pens used to record details should be wiped with an alcohol wipe between users.</p>
<p>Green and surrounds Maintenance</p>	<p>We do not have any further update but recommend keeping greens maintenance to a maximum number of 5 persons, keeping COVID safe at all times including 1.5m social distancing.</p> <p>Further information on keeping safe can be found via the following 3 sites.</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>Meals and drinks</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>Food and drink facilities: Open for seated service only with a maximum patron cap of 100 per venue.</p> <p>Group limit of 10.</p>

	<p>Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.</p> <p>A venue smaller than 100sqm can have up to 25 people per venue before the density quotient applies.</p> <p>COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure attendees check-in.</p> <p>Dancefloors closed.</p>
<p>Use of club cutlery, crockery etc</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>
<p>Signage requirements</p>	<p>Clubs should display all signage as per DHHS guidelines.</p> <p>Assorted items are available for download from the following link: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/signs-posters-and-templates</p>

<p>Shared facilities – tea/coffee stations</p>	<p>Shared/Communal tea and coffee stations are not required to be closed, but are not recommended. Clubs can provide 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>Bringing meals from home</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>AGMs</p>	<p>Indoor/Outdoor AGMs can occur within the venue limits (indoor and outdoor) which is an opportunity to conduct an AGM in person (subject to physical distancing of 1.5m) and hospitality guidelines.</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>
What to do if someone contracts COVID	<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>