



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: 10 November 2021

Amendments highlighted in green

Topic of advice	For Metropolitan Melbourne AND Regional Victoria (as of 29 October 2021)
Vaccination requirements	<p>Bowls Victoria will follow the government requirements for vaccination. The Government has defined a bowls club as a “physical recreation facility” which requires all persons to be fully vaccinated to enter. However, there is a “community sport activity” that provides an exemption for those not fully vaccinated. “Community Sport” includes pennant, pennant training and Club Championships that lead to State Championships.</p> <p>For this exemption to apply, “community sport” must occur at the entire venue or in a separate space within the venue which includes separate entrances and separate facilities such as toilets.</p> <p>There are no exemptions for roll-ups, practice, social bowls or tournaments and as such, they are only open to fully vaccinated persons as per the Government Guidelines.</p> <p>Persons under the age of 16 are treated as “fully vaccinated” for the purposes of these guidelines and there are no exceptions listed for an unknown vaccination status. Persons with an exemption are treated as “fully vaccinated”.</p> <p>Vaccination status can be proven by any of the government approved methods. Clubs must still adhere to the limits as described in “Number of Players” and the vaccination requirements for hospitality as listed in these guidelines.</p> <p>In addition, all club Committee members need to be fully vaccinated to have a meeting at the club – otherwise they must do so online or away from the “physical recreation facility”.</p>
Number of persons in the venue	<p>In general, the limit has been set at DQ4 (Density Quotient of 1 person per 4sqm) for indoors and DQ2 outdoors with a cap of 500.</p> <p>See also the guidance titled “Types of Competitions” and “Meals and Drinks”</p>
Masks	<p>Masks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be carried at all times • Not required to be worn outdoors where social distancing can be maintained • Anyone 12 years and over must wear a fitted face mask indoors (other than their home) including on public transport, unless a lawful exception applies • Exception for food and drink limited so that face coverings can only be removed to eat and to drink

<p>Masks and eating, drinking or smoking</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> <p>You should always wash your hands before and after changing your face covering.</p>
<p>Access to the clubhouse</p>	<p>Only permitted for persons who are fully vaccinated or those with an exemption.</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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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, 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/area of a venue where possible. Install signage to make people aware of which bathroom to use.</p> <p>While acknowledging the limits of the Hospitality Guidelines, in the event of severe weather, patrons from the outdoor space can enter the indoor space as temporarily required.</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>In general, the limit has been set at DQ4 (Density Quotient of 1 person per 4sqm) for indoors and DQ2 outdoors with a cap of 500.</p> <p>There is provision for the number of persons required to participate in the sport, but this will not exceed the limits above.</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 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 after every 6 ends.
<p>Travel, Transport and Carpooling</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. The enclosed space of a car presents a heightened risk of transmission of COVID-19.</p> <p>The DHHS website further states:</p> <p><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>

	<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>
Members and non-members	Members and non-member are permitted to practice – see “Number of Players”
Bins	Ensure there are plenty of bins situated around the facilities and cleaned regularly.
Shared facilities – water fountains	<p>The COVID website states:</p> <p>There is no evidence that coronavirus (COVID-19) is transmitted by drinking water (Victorian State Government, 2020). Water in Victoria is regularly tested and maintains a high standard of water quality.</p> <p>There is no evidence of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission by water fountain/bubble tap metalware.</p> <p>While public drinking water supplies are safe to drink, the surfaces around the fountain including the spout and button/lever could be contaminated because they are used by multiple people and pose a low risk of infection transmission (Victorian State Government, 2020).</p> <p>To minimise this risk of infection transmission when using public drinking water fountains and bubblers, run the water for several seconds before drinking and avoid placing your mouth directly on the fountain or bubbler. When filling up your water bottle at a drinking fountain, ensure the mouth of your drink bottle does not touch the fountain head or bubbler.</p> <p>If the water fountain requires you to push a button or lever, clean the surface first or use your elbow or a clean tissue to operate the tap. Dispose of any tissue or other disposable item used to wipe the surface. Always wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub after touching buttons or levers with your hands.</p>
Spectators	All clubs must ensure that any spectators of the community sport activity comply with the relevant limits on public gatherings in accordance with the Stay Safe Directions (Victoria). This limit is currently set at 30 persons per ‘gathering’. There can be multiple ‘gatherings’ provided they are kept a ‘safe’ distance apart.
Types of competitions	All competitions are permitted – with the advice on vaccination status applying as per this document “Vaccination requirements”.

<p>Equipment (mats and jacks etc)</p>	<p>All shared equipment must be sanitised between users as per Government Guidelines. Spray chalk/liquid chalk must be the only markers used.</p> <p>Players are not to touch other players bowls unless absolutely necessary. If such does occur, hand and equipment sanitising is required immediately. Under no circumstances can bowls be shared.</p> <p>Separate jacks and mats should be used for each Lead (or sanitised between users). Home teams should turn the scoreboard to limit touching of the same surfaces.</p> <p>The person handling the jack or mat should use hand sanitiser prior to picking up the jack and the mat to commence each 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>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 Government's Service App (QR code), or only 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>Green and surrounds maintenance is possible and BV recommends all employees/volunteers adhere to the strictest of safety standards including social distancing and sanitising etc.</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 facility: Open, in general, the limit has been set at DQ4 (Density Quotient of 1 person per 4sqm) for indoors and DQ2 outdoors with a cap of 500.</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 Better Health 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>Bringing meals from home</p>	<p>Canteens, kiosks or at-venue dining facilities may be opened in line with Hospitality Guidelines.</p> <p>Cash can still be accepted as payment, but it is strongly recommended that all clubs use contactless payments. https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services</p>

Shared facilities – tea/coffee stations	<p>There are increased risks with any shared/communal food/drink stations. 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>
Signage requirements	<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.dhhs.vic.gov.au/promotional-material-coronavirus-covid-19</p>
AGMs	<p>Indoor/Outdoor AGMs can occur 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>
Should the club provide sanitiser?	<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>
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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>