

COVID-19 Red Cross Member Guidelines for the Safe Return to Member Run Activities

The COVID-19 Red Cross Member Guidelines for the Safe Return to Member Run Activities apply to all face-to-face member run activities.

Key things to remember

- Health and wellbeing is a shared responsibility. As individuals we have a responsibility to modify our own behaviours to ensure our own health and wellbeing, and the safety of others.
- You must stay home if you feel sick, for example if you are coughing, or have a fever or if you are short of breath. It is important that you seek assistance from a medical professional.
- If you have been sent for a COVID-19 test, please inform your Mobilisation Hub immediately and stay at home until you are advised to return. Note the Hub will inform your State/Territory Director and the WHS team via NAT_WHS_UNIT@redcross.org.au.
- Member groups (branch, unit or club) need to consider carefully whether it is the right time to resume particular activities. In making this decision it is important that in addition to these Guidelines you must follow local State/ Territory requirements, noting this information can change regularly.
- Individual members who are at greater risk of serious illness from COVID-19 should consider carefully whether to attend face-to-face gatherings, including those run by your member group.
- Member groups (branch, unit or club) need to ensure the right measures are put in place to run safe activities.
- Each member group should appoint an 'Activity Lead'. This is, usually an Office Bearer or Coordinator who will take responsibility for planning and working with others to prepare for face-to-face activities.
- Members should work through the Guidelines and Checklist with their Mobilisation Hubs to ensure a safe return to member run activities.
- Approval from your Mobilisation Hub/Director is required before you can run an activity.

If you need further guidance or support please contact your local Mobilisation Hub.

What these guidelines cover

The COVID-19 Red Cross Member Guidelines for the Safe Return to Member Run Activities (the 'Guidelines') apply to all face-to-face member run activities. For the purposes of this document:

- **'Activity'** is defined as a gathering that is organised and run by Red Cross members (including a branch, unit or club) for (a) just that group (such as a branch meeting) or (b) including others (such as services, retail, community events and hall hire).
- **'Site'** is defined as any location used by a Red Cross members (including a branch, unit or club) where a regular activity occurs (such as a branch run store or tea rooms, a service such as MEHS or accommodation). A 'site' also includes venues that branches meet at or use to host events.

The COVID-19 Member Site and Activity Readiness Checklist (the 'Checklist') supports the implementation of these Guidelines.

You can find out more by visiting:

www.redcross.org.au/get-involved/connect/membership/membership-resources

or getting in touch with your State or Territory Mobilisation Hub:

Mobilisation Hub	Email	Phone
New South Wales	Members: nswmembership@redcross.org.au Volunteers: nswvolunteer@redcross.org.au	1800 833 489
Australian Capital Territory	Members: actmembership@redcross.org.au	1800 833 489
Victoria	vicvolunteer@redcross.org.au	1800 833 489
Queensland	QLDVOLUNTEER@redcross.org.au	1800 833 489
South Australia	savolunteer@redcross.org.au	1800 833 489
Tasmania	tasvolunteer@redcross.org.au	1800 833 489
Western Australia	wavolunteer@redcross.org.au	1800 833 489
Northern Territory	NT_VOL@redcross.org.au	1800 833 489

Appointing an 'Activity Lead' to ensure the Guidelines are followed

The member group (branch, unit or club) has a responsibility to comply with these Guidelines if they decide to resume activities and services, when it is possible to do so.

A member, usually an Office Bearer or Coordinator must be appointed 'Activity Lead' by the group and take responsibility for:

- ensuring the member activity being planned is compliant with the Guidelines and
- working with other members to prepare the site for the safe return of their members, volunteers and community members

Before any member activity can go ahead, the Activity Lead MUST:

1. Review and understand these Guidelines
2. Complete the Checklist* and send it to your Mobilisation Hub **at least one week prior** to the proposed activity – see contact details below.
3. Receive approval from your Mobilisation Hub - it is important that no member activity commences until it has been approved.

* For every different type of member activity, you will need to review and comply with the Guidelines and complete a Checklist. There are different checklists covering different types of activity.

Please ensure all members, and anyone else involved in any member activity is across the Guidelines.

If you have any questions about these Guidelines, the Checklist or the role of Activity Lead, please contact your State/ Territory Mobilisation Hub in the first instance.

Reconsidering your involvement if you are vulnerable to serious illness

Members and others (clients, customers and community members) who are vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19 need consider their involvement in all activities carefully.

In most cases people who are vulnerable will be the last to return to face-to-face activities if that is what is best for them. Red Cross recommends that people who are most vulnerable should continue physical distancing. Members who are in a vulnerable group can work with their branch, unit or club and Hub to stay connected in different ways.

People who are, or are more likely to be at higher risk of serious illness if they get the virus are:

- people aged 70 years and over, people aged 65 years and over with chronic medical conditions,
- people living in aged care facilities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people in remote communities
- people with weakened immune systems
- people with diagnosed chronic medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart and lung conditions, chronic respiratory disease, kidney disease and diabetes)
- pregnant women do not appear to be more at risk of developing serious COVID-19 symptoms than the rest of the general population, although pregnant women are at serious risk from other respiratory illnesses, such as the flu. All pregnant women should practise social distancing, good hand and cough or sneeze hygiene, and get their free flu vaccination.

Accessing local information

It is important that in addition to these Guidelines you check your local State/ Territory requirements, noting this information can change regularly. See links to this information below.

New South Wales	https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19
Australian Capital Territory	https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/
Victoria	https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19
Queensland	https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19
South Australia	https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/
Tasmania	https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/

Western Australia	https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus
Northern Territory	https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/

How to run a member activity safely if you decide to do so

Below is a list of member run activities that may be able to recommence if necessary safety measures are in place. Included against each activity are some requirements before the activity can go ahead.

The Activity Lead is responsible for coordinating all necessary actions prior to the member activity commencing, including completing and submitting the Checklist to your Mobilisation Hub.

For each activity you will need to review these Guidelines and complete a Checklist. Completion, submission and sign off of the Checklist by the Mobilisation Hub is compulsory before any member activity can be undertaken.

You need only complete the Checklist once for an activity, unless something changes, including the location (eg change the place where you are having your member meeting).

Please ensure you check in with your Mobilisation Hub who will provide advice and support, and obtain Hub/ Director sign off.

Activity	Requirements
<p>A. General</p> <p><i>This applies to ALL member activities</i></p>	<p>The following apply to ALL in person member activities irrespective of what and where they are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Activity Lead has been appointed ✓ Make sure all members, and anyone else involved in any activity is across the Guidelines. Please email a copy of the Guidelines to everyone in your branch, or talk through it with members over the phone. ✓ Ensure the activity complies with your local state or territory requirements. Please check in with your Mobilisation Hub if you need support to access this information. ✓ Communicate to all Red Cross people to stay home if you feel sick, if you are coughing, have shortness of breath or a fever. ✓ Do not hold activities in the one room for more than two hours. ✓ Practice verbal greetings only and avoid physical contact with others. ✓ Try not to touch surfaces touched by several people (e.g. tables, light switches, toilet doors). If you do, try to use a paper towel/tissue, and discard it in a bin, and/or wash your hands afterwards. ✓ Where it is safe for you to do so, use the stairs rather than the lifts. If you use the handrail, clean your hands after exiting the stair well. ✓ Open windows as much as possible to allow regular fresh air through the meeting space.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Where possible, avoid travelling on public transport; if you do travel on public transport avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth and wash your hands as soon as possible after the trip. ✓ Keep a pen with you in order to avoid having to use a shared pen. ✓ Respect sneezing and coughing etiquette e.g. sneeze or cough into your elbow or a tissue, dispose of the tissue in a rubbish bin and wash your hands immediately after, ✓ Wash your hands regularly with water and soap or a hand sanitizer and use paper towels if available. ✓ Ensure that comprehensive cleaning takes place, and is done safely by members/ volunteers or by a professional cleaner. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure any areas frequented by members or others (e.g. visitors to your premises) are cleaned at least daily with detergent or disinfectant. - Instruct members/ volunteers to wear gloves when performing cleaning duties and wash their hands thoroughly with soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after wearing gloves. - Clean frequently touched areas and surfaces regularly with a detergent or disinfectant solution or wipe. <i>This includes elevator buttons, handrails, tables, counter tops, door knobs, fridge doors, sinks, sink taps, photocopiers and microwave ovens.</i> ✓ If your branch/ unit is involved in any activities that require food handling, please practice good hygiene and food handling techniques. Further information is available here. ✓ Promote the benefits and encourage the downloading of the COVID SAFE app ✓ If someone becomes ill with suspected COVID-19 after any member activity, inform your Mobilisation Hub and/ or email the WHS team via NAT_WHS_UNIT@redcross.org.au.
<p>B. Physical Distancing</p> <p><i>This applies to ALL member activities</i></p>	<p>Ensure physical distancing parameters are adhered to and the number of people on site are kept to a minimum. Further information and resources are available here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Arrange the space, including placing markings on the floor, to ensure physical distancing measures are adhered to. <i>Four square metres of space per person and maintaining a physical distance of at least 1.5 metres from others</i> ✓ Tables and chairs have been moved apart to comply with physical distancing requirements. ✓ The maximum number of people who can be at the activity (based on the size of the venue or site) needs to be determined. (Determine how many square metres the space is, and then divide by the allowed space per person.) A venue you are hiring should provide you with this information. ✓ If you hold an activity at a location that is run by someone else, such as a church building or community centre, please contact them prior to find out

	<p>about the measures they have in place for physical distancing. This will help you make a decision on whether the space is suitable for your activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A person (Activity Lead or someone else) needs to be nominated to be responsible for ensuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ no more than the maximum allowed number of people are in the space at any time ○ everyone is occupying 4m² of space per person, <i>and</i> ○ keeping everyone the required 1.5 metres distance apart in accordance with the latest government requirements.
<p>C. Member group meetings</p> <p><i>This applies to any meeting organised by the branch, unit or club.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hold meetings via Teleconference, Skype/Zoom rather than gathering in meeting rooms. This is particularly important if any of your members are at greater risk of serious illness due to COVID-19. <p><i>Your Mobilisation Hub can provide advice on how to meet virtually. You can find information about technology and ways to connect on our website.</i></p> <p>If you must hold a face to face meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All requirements from section A. General and B. Physical Distancing apply here. ✓ Consider having the meeting outdoors. ✓ Limit the number of people that are physically attending the meeting to a minimum to ensure physical distancing parameters are adhered to. ✓ Ensure all meetings attendees' names are recorded in an attendance register for future tracing purposes. This attendee list needs to be kept for 1 month. ✓ Do not hold meetings in the one room for more than two hours. ✓ If you are holding a meeting at a location that is run by someone else, such as at a church building or community centre, please contact them prior to find out about the measures they have in place for physical distancing and sanitising. This will help you make a decision on whether the space is suitable.
<p>D. Venue Hire</p> <p><i>Where member groups manage a building or venue and hire it out for community activities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All requirements from section A. General and B. Physical Distancing apply here. ✓ Ensure hand water and soap, and/or sanitiser and cleaning wipes are available. ✓ Calculate and advise on maximum occupancy for the space and display this information clearly. ✓ Arrange the space, including by marking it up, to ensure physical distancing measures are adhered to. ✓ Include signage to ensure physical distancing measures are adhered to ✓ Consider how you can provide venue access without needing to see anyone ✓ Organise for the venue to be given a comprehensive clean after each use. Consider using a professional cleaner and increasing your hire charges.

<p>E. Events</p> <p><i>An event is a more formal or organised activity eg a soup and sandwich community lunch. It may include a fundraising component.</i></p>	<p>We recommend you do not organise and hold community events at this time. There is a risk that people attending your event might carry COVID-19 without realising it, and others may be exposed to COVID-19</p> <p>If you do want to hold a face to face event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All requirements from section A. General and B. Physical Distancing apply here. <p><i>Before the event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Check the advice from your state or territory government and ensure you follow this advice. ✓ Consider having the event outdoors. ✓ Set a clear time limit on the event to minimise exposure. ✓ Limit the number of people that are physically attending the event to a minimum to ensure physical distancing parameters are adhered to. ✓ If you are holding a meeting at a location that is run by someone else, such as at a church building or community centre, please contact them prior to find out about the measures they have in place for physical distancing and sanitising. This will help you make a decision on whether the space is suitable. ✓ Arrange the space, including by marking it up, to ensure physical distancing measures are adhered to. ✓ Include signage to ensure physical distancing measures are adhered to. ✓ Advise participants in advance that if they have any symptoms or feel unwell, they should not attend. ✓ Pre-order sufficient supplies and materials, including tissues and hand sanitizer for all participants. Place these in appropriate locations around the space. <p>For further information on preventative measures in regards to public gatherings please view the current advice from the Department of Health.</p> <p><i>During the event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure all event attendees' names, phone and email contact details are recorded in an attendance register for future tracing purposes. This attendee list needs to be kept for one month. ✓ Advise participants as they arrive (through signage) that if they have any symptoms or feel unwell, they should not attend. ✓ Ask people to use the hand sanitizer as they come in. ✓ Provide information or a briefing, preferably both in writing and as a run through at the start of the event, on COVID-19 and the measures that you as the organisers are taking to make this event safe for participants. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ways to say hello without touching and maintain physical distance ○ display water and soap or hand sanitizers prominently around the venue,
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ encourage regular hand-washing or use of a hand sanitizer by all participants at the meeting or event, ○ encourage participants to cover their face with the bend of their elbow or a tissue if they cough or sneeze, supply tissues and closed bins for disposal, ○ arrange seats so that participants are at least 1.5 metres apart wherever possible, ○ provide contact details of WHS team members that participants can call for advice or to give information, ○ make sure that same measures are applied during breaks, ○ open windows and doors whenever possible to make sure the venue is well ventilated, ○ thank all participants for their cooperation with the provisions in place. <p><i>After the event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Retain the names and contact details of all participants for at least one month. [This will help public health authorities trace people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 if one or more participants become ill within 48 hours after the event.] ✓ If someone at the event becomes ill with suspected COVID-19 the Activity Lead should inform their relevant Mobilisation Hub and/ or email the WHS team via NAT_WHS_UNIT@redcross.org.au.
<p>F. Member Run:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shops ▪ Tea Rooms ▪ Services* <p><i>*This includes Mobility Equipment Hire and Accommodation Services in QLD</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All requirements from section A. General and B. Physical Distancing apply here. ✓ Develop a roster to identify who will be onsite or participating in the activity. [The roster will enable you to stagger members and volunteers returning to the site/ store, ensuring that not all members and volunteers be onsite at the same time and you are meeting social distancing measures.] ✓ Ensure all areas have signs advising on social distancing measures. ✓ Ensure each shift a person assumes responsibility for making sure no more than the maximum allowed number of people are in the space at any time. This person must also ensure everyone is occupying 4m² of space per person, <i>and</i> keeping everyone the required 1.5 metres distance apart in accordance with the latest government requirements. ✓ Where practical, identify areas that do not provide physical distancing (a distance of 1.5 metres between people) and place signs to advise not to use that work area. ✓ Develop an onsite sign in/out register (name and number) to identify members and volunteers on site each day. This will assist in the event that someone suddenly develops symptoms or returns a positive case of COVID-19. The list for each day should be kept for at least one month.

- ✓ Ensure hand water and soap, and/or sanitiser and cleaning wipes are available for members, volunteers and customers to use for hands, surfaces, phones, printers, payment equipment, bathrooms and food consumption areas.
- ✓ Instruct members/ volunteers to clean personal property that they bring in, such as sunglasses and mobile phones with disinfectant (eg disinfectant wipes or spray).
- ✓ Identify if split shifts e.g. day vs afternoon, is an option and consult the team members to determine opportunities. This means spending less time on site.
- ✓ Mark up all areas where customer transactions /engagement takes place (such as the front of the payment and change room areas) to ensure customers keep their distance and can better maintain physical distance when queuing.
- ✓ Do not share work or electronic equipment e.g. phones, computers, pricing guns, steamers, etc. where possible.
- ✓ Ensure members and volunteers maintain clean and uncluttered work areas to allow easier wiping of surfaces and equipment.
- ✓ Select rooms where meals are to be had (large enough, easy to ventilate and clean) and put a sign on the entrance with the maximum number of people authorised in the room.

In addition to the full list above, the following applies specifically to **processing donations at Member Shops:**

- ✓ Wear gloves when accepting donations. If that is not possible, wash hands thoroughly after accepting, and put donations in the backrooms in a designated location for quarantine. Please label this area so it is identifiable to all team members.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose while processing the donations
- ✓ Do not shake the clothes
- ✓ Dispose of the bags / container that the clothes were donated in
- ✓ Label each donation with the day/ date/time and the name of person that accepted donation
- ✓ Donations must be left untouched for 3 days/ 72 hours. After this period and wearing gloves, donations can be sorted and managed as normal.
- ✓ Please speak with your Mobilisation Hub about any challenges with quarantining and processing donations.

In addition to the full list above, the following applies specifically to **Member run Tea Rooms:**

- ✓ If your branch/ unit is involved in any activities that require food handling, please practice good hygiene and food handling techniques. Further information is available [here](#).

	<p>In addition to the full list above, the following applies specifically to Mobility Equipment Hire Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leave equipment untouched for 3 days/ 72 hours before cleaning. ✓ In addition to regular cleaning measures, returned equipment needs to be cleaned thoroughly with a sanitising cleaner. Ensure gloves are worn when cleaning.
<p>G. Community activities</p> <p><i>This applies to any in person activity the member group does regularly that has not been covered already eg fundraising stalls, social activities, activities in nursing homes and hospitals and transport activities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consider whether or not the activity is appropriate at this time, or could be held in another way. <i>Get in touch with your Mobilisation Hub for advice.</i> <p>If you do need to hold the activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All requirements from section A. General and B. Physical Distancing apply here. ✓ Standards and protocols in the space you are working in, such as a hospital or nursing home, will apply.

Please get in touch with your Mobilisation Hub if there is a specific member activity that is not covered here.