

INTRODUCTION

Most states in Australia are experiencing high levels of Covid-19 transmission. There is a reasonable likelihood that officials and volunteers, competitors, and spectators may have contact with people that are a positive with Covid-19.

Individuals should consider their own circumstances when considering whether to attend. Those who are at greater risk of serious illness from the virus, for example, those who have not been vaccinated or who have underlying health conditions, are strongly urged not to attend.

PURPOSE

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide general advice to officials and volunteers, competitors, and spectators who are considering attending a Paddle Australia Event on ways to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

These PA Guidelines for Events were published on 25th January 2022. Please monitor the PA website and social media for updates.

These PA Guidelines for Events should be read in conjunction with the latest guidelines and recommendations issued by the Australian Government and relevant State Governments. Where there is conflict between government guidelines and public health orders and these PA Guidelines for Events, government guidelines should take precedence.

It is an individual's responsibility to understand the current Federal/State guidelines specific to your own situation, and to make their own informed decisions about attending a PA event. Any club or group considering attending a Paddle Australia event should ensure their members, coaches, officials and volunteers and any travelling personnel are provided with this information prior to travelling.

CONTACT TRACING

If it has been deemed mandatory by the relevant state government or venue/facility, there will be QR codes to register attendance at events to assist with contact tracing if required. You can download the free state government apps to help check in to a Covid-Safe venue (where applicable).

Victoria: [Get the free Service Victoria app](#)

NSW: [Get the free Service NSW app](#)

Qld: [Get the free Check-In QLD app](#)

SA: [Get the free my SA GOV app](#)

WA: [Get the free SafeWA app](#)

TAS: [Get the free Check in TAS app](#)

GENERAL RISK MANAGEMENT

For all participants attending a PA event, the following steps are recommended to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

AT ALL TIMES:

1. Follow State and Federal Government Health advice.
2. Anyone with symptoms should stay home and get tested.
3. Maintain physical distancing as much as practically possible. During some events this may not be possible.
4. Wear face masks whenever indoors, in public and in transit.
5. Use hand sanitizer and wash hands regularly.
6. Do not under any circumstances share water bottles or food.
7. Do not use water fountains.
8. Avoid unnecessary physical contact such as shaking hands, high fives, and hugging.
9. Handle your own belongings and equipment.
10. Minimise the time spent indoors in any setting, particularly in crowded spaces.
11. At all times, minimise interaction with other people, especially those from outside your own family/club/paddling group, including other clubs/paddling groups from your own state/region.
12. NOTE: Everyone attending a PA event has a responsibility in this regard. Coaches and Managers are encouraged to remind athletes about this regularly.

IN ADDITION, WHEN NOT AT THE VENUE:

13. If possible, create your own bubble with your family or those known to you.
14. Eat in or, if you are eating out, try to do so outside.
15. Keep apartment windows and doors open as often as practically possible.
16. If there is a balcony sit outside whenever possible and minimise the use of air conditioning.

PA recognises that these are unusual steps and for many, they may detract from their enjoyment of the competition. However, as we all work through this pandemic together, we have a shared responsibility to keep each other safe. We all look forward to circumstances improving over the coming weeks and months.

VACCINATION

While it is not mandatory to be vaccinated to participate in a PA event, it is strongly encouraged that you are double vaccinated and, if eligible, have a booster. Medical evidence indicates that this can both protect you and reduce the risk of you passing on the virus to others. Your cooperation with this would be greatly appreciated.

TESTING

PA does not require you to have taken a PCR/RAT test. However, you must get tested for Covid-19 if:

- a) You have symptoms of the illness -even if your symptoms are mild; or
- b) You have been identified as a close contact; or
- c) You must be tested before you can travel based on state advice.

Anyone that may have a compromised immune systems or underlying health issues should consider not attending the event.

Please note that RAT tests may be difficult to source. Therefore, it is highly recommended all attendees bring their own RAT tests to the event.

As an alternative anyone who is symptomatic or deemed a close contact can access a PCR test from a local testing clinic, free of charge. Please note the turn-around time for test results can be long depending on testing numbers. If you do a PCR test you are required to isolate immediately following your test until you get a negative result in line with the State government requirements at the location at which you are residing.

UPDATES

Each state Government is making regular changes to policies and health orders. Outlined below is an overview of some of the key definitions for close contacts. Also below are links to each state government website with details of each states polices as outlined. Please note that policy do vary between the different states.

DEFINITION OF CLOSE CONTACT

You are a close contact if you are a **household member** or a **household-like contact** of a diagnosed person.

- A **household member** is a person who ordinarily resides at the same premises or place of accommodation as the diagnosed person, and who are residing at the premises or place of accommodation at the time the diagnosed person receives their positive COVID-19 test result. You do not have to be related to the diagnosed person to be considered a household member.
- A **household-like contact** is a person who has spent more than four hours with the diagnosed person in a house or other place of accommodation, care facility or similar. Note: a person is not a household-like contact if they are in a separate part of the house, accommodation or care facility that has a separate point of entry and no shared common areas, and if they do not have contact or interaction for more than four hours

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLOSE CONTACTS

If you have been told or find out that you are a **close contact** of someone who has Covid-19, you must get tested and isolate for 7 days.

- Close contact means a person who is a **household member** or a **household-like contact** of a diagnosed person.
- Close contacts must isolate for seven days from the date they last had contact with the diagnosed person and immediately get tested. A test is defined as a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or a PCR test
- Close contacts have the same requirements regardless of their vaccination status or the vaccination status of the diagnosed case.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

If you cannot attend or are forced to leave the Event, PA will refund your entry fees. All other costs must be borne by the individual. This may include, but is not limited to, additional accommodation, flight changes and meals.

STATE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

For the latest official news, updates and advice from the Australian Government including links to State and Territory websites please [CLICK HERE](#)

NATIONAL HOTLINE

The national hotline for Covid-19 is 1800 020 080.