

The game of Bridge in the COVID-19 era

A discussion paper for the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF)

(Prepared from recommendations by N.S.W. Public Health & Australian Bridge Federation)

What is COVID-19?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause respiratory infections. These can range from the common cold to more serious diseases. COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new form of coronavirus. It was first reported in December 2019 in Wuhan City in China.

Symptoms:

Symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild illness to pneumonia. Some people will recover easily, and others may get very sick very quickly.

People with coronavirus may experience symptoms such as fever, respiratory symptoms, coughing, sore throat, shortness of breath.

Other symptoms can include runny nose, headache, muscle or joint pains, nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of sense of smell, altered sense of taste, loss of appetite and fatigue.

To stop the spread of COVID-19, people with even mild symptoms of respiratory infection are encouraged to get tested.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus can spread from person to person through:

- . close contact with an infectious person including in the 48 hours before they had symptoms.
- . contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze.
- . touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have droplets from an infected person, and then touching your mouth or face.

Who is most at risk?

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

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions
- people 65 years and older with chronic medical conditions
- people 70 years and older
- people with compromised immune systems

At this stage the risk to children and babies, and the role children play in the transmission of COVID-19, is not clear. However, there has so far been a low rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children, relative to the broader population. There is limited evidence, at this time, regarding the risk in pregnant women.

Orange Bridge Club Inc (OBC).

Covid-19 Safety Plan (DRAFT)

Guidelines for safe use of the club premises by members as recommended by NSW Public Health and endorsed by the Australian Bridge Federation

This Plan is in place to ensure a safe environment for Orange Bridge Club members, if Local or National Conditions change then the committee may decide to close the club until play can be safely resumed.

The club will be open to OBC members, associates and those undertaking lessons

ON ARRIVAL AT THE CLUB

- ✓ A club member will act as a monitor on your arrival at the **front door** (which will be the only entry point). You will be required to answer the following questions on a signed proforma:
 - Are you well? Do you have any symptoms of illness? Including fever, respiratory symptoms, coughing, sore throat, shortness of breath, headache, muscle or joint pains, loss of smell, taste, or fatigue.
 - Have you had any recent (last 2 weeks) contact with any person who has/had such an illness?
 - Have you returned from overseas in the last 2 weeks or from a known “Hot Spot”?
 - Have you had contact with a returned traveller in the last 2 weeks?

If the answers to any of these questions is “YES” then you will not be admitted to the clubhouse and you may be advised to seek medical help.

- ✓ A non-contact temperature check will be performed. If abnormal, you will be directed to return home, or if necessary, seek medical help.
- ✓ You will be required to use the hand sanitiser supplied (20 seconds) or go directly to the washroom and hand wash with soap and water for 20 seconds & dry with a paper towel.
- ✓ A face mask is encouraged and may be worn if you feel comfortable using it.
- ✓ Any member who enters the club to perform club duties at times other than regular sessions will be required to sign the form and sanitise their hands
- ✓ Pay the session fee on the terminal using a credit or debit card

BEFORE TAKING YOUR SEAT

- ✓ You will notice that there are fewer tables than before the pandemic and the tablecloths will be removed to ensure a clean surface for cleaning. Tables have been spaced to provide 4 square metres per person and this allows a maximum of 11 tables or 44 players.
- ✓ Bottles of hand sanitiser are supplied at each table. These should be used before play at each table and between tables when changing, in the same manner as for soap & water.
- ✓ Packs of disinfectant wipes are supplied. These should be used by North to wipe down the tables and chairs before beginning the bridge session, and by East at the conclusion of the session. You will note that tablecloths are not in use. Bridgemates are also safe to be wiped at session start & end.

DURING PLAY

- ✓ You must make all attempts to practice social distancing of 1.5 metres while at the club. Do not congregate in tight groups while away from the table. Sit back from the table as far as is comfortable.
- ✓ Each player will be required to use their own pen or pencil when bidding.
- ✓ The kitchen area will be open for tea, coffee and hot water only. You should bring your own refreshments
- ✓ While at the table, or anywhere in the club, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If a tissue is unavailable, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- ✓ Don't shake hands, embrace or kiss.
- ✓ Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth. Use hand sanitiser if you do.
- ✓ Remember to use hand sanitiser after each group of boards .
- ✓ When using the toilet, a 20 second scrub with soap and water is effective.

AT THE END OF PLAY

- ✓ Once the tables are cleared, East is to use the disinfectant wipes to clean the tables, chairs, BridgeMates, and any other playing equipment.
- ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water, or sanitiser, and exit the building.
- ✓ The Director & or BridgeMate operator will wipe over the computer(s) & printer & return the laptop to the locked office.
- ✓ It is the responsibility of the Director to ensure the power is off, doorknobs, and office are clean

before setting the alarm & exiting the building.

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

- ◆ If a member should contract Coronavirus (Covid – 19) in the community, he/she is likely to spread the infection to:
 - ◆ other members
 - ◆ family
 - ◆ friends
- because most of the members of the Orange Bridge Club may fall into one or more of the most at-risk demographics:
- ◆ Over 65 years with chronic illnesses
 - ◆ Over 70 years
 - ◆ Immunosuppressed
 - ◆ Are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
 - ◆ Close contact – less than 1.5 metres when sitting at tables for prolonged periods
 - ◆ Increased incidence of diabetes, hypertension, lung & other chronic diseases

Government Health Department penalties for non-compliance leading to a positive case include

- ◆ Warnings
- ◆ Multiple Covid testing of members
- ◆ Shutting down the Club for a period and extensive disinfection and cleaning
- ◆ Fines up to \$55,000.