

Memo

TO: NZWLA and NZLA Members

DATE: 19 March 2020

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 19 March

COVID-19 is increasingly having an impact on the global community and is a rapidly evolving issue in New Zealand and worldwide.

With guidance from decisions made by New Zealand's major sporting bodies, fellow World Lacrosse national governing bodies, Sport NZ, the New Zealand Government and the Ministry of Health, New Zealand Lacrosse (NZWLA and NZLA, collectively "NZL") have made a number of recommendations regarding community and High Performance lacrosse in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Lacrosse

Effective today **until 31 March 2020**, NZL have made the decision to postpone all community lacrosse activities within New Zealand. This includes all club and social level lacrosse trainings, face to face workshops, games, tournaments and leagues.

Regional bodies will communicate directly with their members about what the postponement means for them.

School and University Lacrosse

The decision to continue to run lacrosse programmes within schools and universities fall under the guidance of the school/university governing bodies. However, NZL recommends any schools in the process of trialling and training postpone until the first week of April at the earliest.

The regional bodies will continue to provide assistance to the schools and universities within their region.

High Performance Lacrosse

NZL has also made the decision to review High Performance Lacrosse activity planned over this period. This includes the following decisions and guidance:

Australian U18 National Championships Tournament (8-13 April 2020):

The Australian Lacrosse Association announced earlier this week that they have cancelled this tournament. All NZ teams anticipating to travel and participate in this tournament will no longer be attending. NZL has been in contact with all NZ teams entered in the tournament, and players and parents should now be informed of the changes. We are actively working with our insurance broker to claim back and refund players and personnel where possible.

Upcoming NZBLAX and NZLA training camps:

- The NZBLAX training camp scheduled for 21-22 March is postponed. Players will receive further information about this postponement from NZWLA High Performance staff. At this stage training on 18 April is expected to continue as planned. The NZWLA will communicate any changes to all players and staff directly, and an update on the April camp is expected to be communicated in NZL's 1 April COVID update.
- The NZLA Senior team training camp scheduled for 28-29 March is expected to continue as planned, however a final decision will be made next week. Prevention measures will be put in place to ensure the health and well-being of all parties involved, including allowing players to elect not to attend without prejudice or impact to selection decisions. NZLA will directly communicate and update players and staff accordingly.
- Effective today until 31 March 2020, NZL have made the decision to postpone all other National and Regional level representative training. Relevant staff and players will receive direct communications and updates.

Relevant to All Men's and Women's High Performance Camps (Senior and Junior Teams):

- At this stage NZL High Performance training camps scheduled after 1 April 2020 are expected to continue as planned, but will be reviewed before 30 March 2020 and may change based on advice and guidelines from the Ministry of Health and/or SportNZ.
- Players returning home from overseas will be required to comply with the government mandated two week self-isolation policy.
- To help prevent the risk of spreading or coming into contact with the virus, the NZLA/NZWLA will communicate the necessary steps and measures that have been recommended by the Ministry of Health advice to players and staff. The health and well-being of all parties involved will sit at the forefront of all decisions.

NZL Merger Meetings (March)

These will no longer be face-to-face meetings. The NZL Merger Committee will organise video conferencing Zoom meetings for Members instead, and will contact regional bodies directly with further updates.

Summary

This decision has not been reached lightly and New Zealand Lacrosse has sought guidance and feedback from its regional bodies and High Performance staff.

While exercise and participation in sport remains an important part of physical and mental health for everyone, the health and wellbeing of our players, coaches, officials, team personnel and New Zealand lacrosse community is a priority.

NZL will review this decision by 30 March 2020, with an updated decision to be communicated to the NZ Lacrosse community by 1 April 2020.

The NZWLA and NZLA will act in accordance with the advice and guidance from the New Zealand Government, Ministry of Health, Sport New Zealand, World Lacrosse and the World Health Organisation.

The NZL Associations have been, and will continue to, monitor information daily and will provide updates to Members as and when advice and guidelines change.

We urge our NZ Lacrosse community to stay safe and look after each other through this unsettling time.

Kia Kaha
Stay Strong

Information About COVID-19

Novel Coronavirus / COVID-19 has reached New Zealand and is having an increasing impact on the global community.

Up to date information is available through the following websites:

New Zealand Government:

<https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

Ministry of Health:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Sport New Zealand:

<https://sportnz.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases-and-updates/articles/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-update>

World Health Organisation:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Recommended Steps and Procedures

We suggest the following steps that Members can take to contain the spread of the virus:

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.
- Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- Avoid personal contact including shaking hands, high-fives or hugs. We suggest touching sticks instead.
- Don't share drink bottles, food or towels with others at training.
- Call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 if you have any symptoms and have been to any countries or territories of concern or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19.