



13 March 2020

Good afternoon members,

I write to you to provide you with an update about Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the position of Altona City Soccer Club.

The safety, health and welfare of our club members is our highest priority. As such the Altona City Soccer Club continues to be informed by the advice provided by the Australian Government Department of Health <https://www.health.gov.au/>, the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/> and Football Victoria <https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/>.

These departments' advice is regularly updated and can be viewed on their web pages (websites above) to assist you in your understanding of the virus, how the situation is being handled, the stance of Football Victoria and where you can get further information.

Due to the evolving situation moving rapidly, we have established an internal team comprised of members of our Executive Committee who meet and ensure our actions and procedures implemented are timely, adequate and appropriate.

In relation to the severity and extremely high rate of coronavirus spread this week, we have met and discussed potential options to put into place to keep the whole team as safe as possible.

1. You do not attend the club if you have any signs of cold, influenza or the coronavirus
2. Cover your coughs by using the inside of your arms and sneeze into tissues
3. To help reduce the spread of the virus we ask that you follow a strict hygiene regime and at a minimum wash your hands regularly with soap for a minimum of 20 seconds
4. We request that you stop shaking hands and/or other forms of physical contact at the club. This is to avoid the spread of the virus and potential risk to you or others
5. We wish you to keep close indoor contact to a minimum. Please limit the times you are in a meeting with one another and leave ample room between yourselves.

We appreciate the anxiety that exists amongst us, made worse by some unhelpful and unnecessary hysteria. We need to adopt a common sense, calculated and measured approach as we do in our day to day life.

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We also need to keep some perspective, specifically:

- Australia has an excellent history of dealing with infectious diseases and has a world class medical care system
- Early data suggests that of those who develop an illness, the majority will have a mild-to-moderate, but a self-limiting illness – similar to seasonal influenza. It is, however, also clear that a relatively small minority of people who get coronavirus will develop severe complications. So far, the data suggests that the risk of severe disease and death increases amongst elderly people and in people with underlying health risk conditions (in the same way as for seasonal influenza)
- The majority of people with coronavirus have recovered without the need for any specific treatment, as is the case for the common cold or seasonal flu. They expect the vast majority of cases will best be managed at home, again as per seasonal colds and influenza.

We will continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss and plan what is required for the safety and minimal disruption to our club. We will continue to keep you all updated.

The impact of the coronavirus is of concern to all of us. However, to avoid any unnecessary distress, I ask that we remain calm, keep the situation in perspective and be reassured our plans have been informed by government Health Department advice.

We understand that this may be difficult to explain to younger children, however, as a club we must follow the guidelines established by the State Government and Health Authorities to protect all members of the club and the extended families.

We will continue to keep you informed of any significant developments and we thank you in anticipation of your ongoing understanding and support.

NOTE: Further correspondence to follow regarding our Cups.

Yours sincerely,

Executive Committee  
Altona City Soccer Club