

# **Coronavirus Update 1**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**As the Coronavirus continues to escalate, similar age group clubs/ associations are issuing the following urgent guidance above, and beyond that issued by Public Health England. This is due to the main age demographic of our membership being in a significantly higher risk group.**

**COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in December 2019.**

**The World Health Organization (WHO) believes COVID-19 more severely affects older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes). Based on the WHO's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern, the UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the UK from low to moderate. On 10 February, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, announced strengthened legal powers to protect public health, and on the 2 March outlined the UK's national response to the virus. Whilst each club may decide for itself what precautions it may wish to take, we strongly suggest you follow this advice:**

- If you or a family member is showing signs of illness, please do not attend your club meetings and follow the guidance below.**
- We recommend that members consider refraining from any physical contact within the club meeting / activities. Given the tactile nature of many greetings, if you, or members are concerned for example, about the unavoidable contact during a Dance, or other social activity, you may wish to consider postponing the event, until the situation has improved. Events with little or no physical contact, maybe considered a lower risk, but good hand hygiene remains essential, and a distance of between 1 and 2 meters, endeavoured to be achieved at all times**
- If you are a person at risk i.e. low immunity, chest, or heart problems, then you should minimise mass shared transport (i.e. coaches) and do not join in outings if you are feeling unwell.**
- Wash hands thoroughly before, and after Club meetings for 20 seconds with hot water.**
- Any member who feels unwell should follow the advice from Public Health England.**

**If a member is known to have been infected with Covid-19, then it is standard policy for Public Health to contact all those with whom he/she has been in contact.**

**Full co-operation is expected to ensure the risk to other Club members and members of the public is minimised. We recommend the Secretaries maintain physical possession of an 'attendance book', to assist in this process.**

**If you are worried about a fellow member please keep in contact with them via the telephone, and text to keep an eye on their wellbeing.**

**Please bear in mind your Club facility / building could be used by many hundreds of other users each week!**