



COVID-19 UPDATE



The Latest COVID-19 Outbreak

A Message from the NSWBA State Committee

28th June 2021

The latest COVID-19 outbreak provides challenges for the bridge community across the state and the New South Wales Bridge Association supports strategies that maximise your safety while allowing you access to a game of bridge. The NSWBA seeks to support and guide the diverse range of our affiliated clubs, casual bridge groups and individual players and the following advice is based on detailed information published on the NSW Health Website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19> **Please check this site frequently to keep updated on the latest safety information to inform decision making at your particular club.**

For clubs located in the Greater Sydney area, the current lockdown requires you to give up face-to-face bridge for the time being and to take advantage of the excellent on-line play made available by the NSWBA on BBO and Realbridge.

Please contact our office (office@nswba.com.au) if you need assistance.

For clubs in regional NSW, many of you have recommenced face-to-face play and have COVID-19 Safety Plans in place. These plans vary according to the classification of your place of play and each club is responsible for their particular plan.

Currently, the main changes to these plans are the requirement to:

- ♣ **Limit the number of people to the greater of 25 people or one person per 4 square metres within in each room of the venue**
- ♣ **Wear a face mask at all times whilst in the venue**

Please continue to observe the following safety measures:

- ♣ If your club has resumed face-to-face bridge or is considering this option:
- ♣ Please make sure your club has submitted a CovidSafe Plan to NSW Health. The range of plans, plan templates, access to a QR codes, registering your club as a COVIDSafe business and other useful documents may be found at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe>
- ♣ If you hire a venue you may need to conform to the CovidSafe plan already in place for your venue. Obtain a copy of the venue's COVIDSafe plan and discuss it with the management of the venue you intend to use.

Regional Clubs may also take advantage of the excellent on-line play made available by the NSWBA on BBO and Realbridge.

Please contact our office (office@nswba.com.au) if you need assistance.

What follows are some friendly reminders for bridge during this continuing Covid-19 period. These are all contained in the NSW Health Safety Plans and are presented below for clarity.

For the Club Management Committee

- ♣ Have a procedure for excluding people who are unwell from your venue.
- ♣ Make the Conditions of Entry clear to your players and provide clear information on such things as hygiene procedures and physical distancing.
- ♣ Provide general information on COVID-19 to your players.
- ♣ Require players to bring their own face masks and/or make them available at your venue.
- ♣ Observe the limits to the number of people who may attend your venue (currently the greater of 25 people or one person per 4 square metres within in each room of the venue).
- ♣ Support 1.5 metres of physical distancing
- ♣ Avoid congestion at your entry and exit and in communal facilities such as bathrooms.
- ♣ Consider using larger tables to maintain 1.5 metres of physical distancing during play.
- ♣ Support good hygiene practices and provide hand sanitisers at key points (e.g. at the entry and at each table) and soap and hand towels in bathrooms.
- ♣ Clean frequently used surfaces several times per day and encourage players to wipe down playing surfaces after each use. For example, provide sanitary wipes at each table for players to wipe the table at the end of each round.
- ♣ Reduce sharing of equipment. For example, consider dealing one set of boards per table so that only one player touches any hand of cards. You might also consider a resting time of at least 72 hours before reusing cards and boards. Players might acquire their own bidding box or the club might supply these. Nominating one player to handle the Bridgemate and wipe this down at the end of each round could also be used.
- ♣ Maximise natural ventilation or optimise air conditioning.
- ♣ Keep records of people who attend your venue and consider acquiring a QR code for players to register on entry to your premises.
- ♣ Make contact with your NSWBA Regional Representative in the first instance if you require further advice or support.

For Individual Players

- ♣ Stay home when you're not well. Get tested when you have any symptoms like fever, dry cough, sore throat and shortness of breath, however mild they are.
- ♣ Wash your hands properly (20 seconds) and sanitise your hands frequently after touching any equipment e.g. cards, boards or a Bridgemate.
- ♣ Maintain physical distancing and wear a mask. Do not gather in a crowd when entering or leaving or when using the bathroom.
- ♣ Respect the staff and tournament director when you are asked to practise COVIDSafe measures or are turned away because of the maximum COVIDSafe capacity of the club has been reached.

I encourage you to be patient, considerate and understanding and share the responsibility of acting in a COVIDSafe manner.

Keep safe and keep enjoying bridge.

Glenda Parmenter

Chair, New South Wales Bridge Association State Committee

Disclaimer: The NSWBA reiterates that this is a general guide, and that the NSWBA has no authority over individual clubs and their actions. At all times adhere to the NSW Government directives, regulations & advice. If in doubt, delay action and seek a definitive answer. Failure to adhere the Government Directives & Regulations might result in loss of cover under the ABF national liability insurance policy.