



23rd May 2022

Surf Life Saving New Zealand COVID 19 Risk Assessment update

Summary:

The original Risk Assessment was undertaken in November 2021 based on the Delta strain under an elimination strategy to ensure that Surf Life Saving paid and volunteer staff were protected from the risk of contracting Covid-19 during normal patrol operations, and ensuring clubs and SLSNZ/NR continue to meet their duties to members under the Health and Safety At Work (HSAW) Act. A lot has changed since then!

Surf life saving has been impacted like the rest of New Zealand by the Omicron variant 'wave' with many members infected or unable to patrol due to home isolation, but not to the point (even at the peak of infections) where services were not able to be provided.

As the Government has reduced isolation times, testing requirements and gathering restrictions we have not seen the situation worsen. We have also seen the prevention focus sharpen to indoor venues with poor ventilation and relaxing for outdoor activities. The Government approach to isolation focussing only on Household Contacts is further evidence that we have learned a lot more where the infection risk truly lies.

Using Work Safe NZ guidelines and risk assessment processes we have re-assessed the current risk to members under the current Covid-19 Protection Framework, which is with the experience of the last six months and an environment where Omicron is now the dominant strain, widespread in the community and the previous elimination strategy long gone.

The outcome of this process shows the risk of being infected and passing on the infection while in the surf life saving environment can be managed without the need for mandatory vaccination of all lifeguards. This does not change the situation where lifeguards need to be fully vaccinated in the few specific situations stipulated in the Government Health Order (i.e. when working within 2 metres of a health practitioner for more than 15 minutes).

The full risk assessment is on the following page. If there are any questions please contact me.

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FINANCIAL SERVICES





ROLE	RISK FACTORS: COVID RISK ASSESSMENT MAY 2022							CONTROL MEASURES	OVERALL ASSESSMENT				
<p>Risk ratings</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Low</td></tr> <tr><td>Moderate</td></tr> <tr><td>Moderate - High</td></tr> <tr><td>High</td></tr> </table>	Low	Moderate	Moderate - High	High	<p>How many people does the worker carry out that work come into contact with? (very few = lower risk; many = higher risk)</p>	<p>How easy will it be to identify the people who the worker comes into contact with? (easy to identify, such as co-workers = lower risk; difficult to identify, such as unknown members of public = higher risk)</p>	<p>How close is the worker carrying out the tasks in proximity to other people? (2 metres or more in an outdoor space = lower risk; close physical contact in an indoor environment = higher risk)</p>	<p>How long does the work require the worker to be in that proximity to other people? (brief contact = lower risk; lengthy contact = higher risk)</p>	<p>Does the work involve regular interaction with people considered at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, such as people with underlying health conditions? (little to none = lower risk; whole time = higher risk)</p>	<p>What is the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission in the work environment when compared to the risk outside work? (equal to outside work = lower risk; higher than outside work = higher risk)</p>	<p>Will the work continue to involve regular interaction with unknown people if the region is at a higher CPF settings? (no = lower risk; yes = higher risk).</p>	<p>What control measures (short of requiring vaccination) would reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission in the workplace?</p>	<p>Is it necessary to require that the role be performed by a vaccinated worker?</p> <p>1. Do the risk ratings for each factor tend towards higher? AND 2. Could the risk be adequately addressed through other control measures?</p>
Low													
Moderate													
Moderate - High													
High													
Lifeguard (Interaction with other Lifeguards for longer than 15 minutes)	5-10	Co-workers are easily identified. Outdoor risk is Low for those they do contact.	Most work is outdoors where risk is Low. Sometimes close in a tower. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguards.	Moderate, but outdoor risk is Low. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguards.	Little to none = Low Risk	Some inside work = slightly higher than outside work.	No – co-workers will continue to be known at higher CPF levels	SLSNZ Facemask policy Work outside where possible. Ventilate indoor spaces	No Risk ratings are not high as risk of transmission outdoors is minimal. Risk increases when working in towers but can be controlled with face masks.				
Lifeguard (Interaction with General Public)	50-100	Difficult but outdoor risk is Low. Contact tracing has also largely been dropped by government.	Most public interaction work is outdoors where risk is Low. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguards and public.	Generally brief. Outdoor risk is Low. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguard and public.	Little to none = Low Risk	Mainly Outside Work so Low Risk	Yes – public still have access to beaches at higher CPF levels. No risk of transmission outdoors is minimal	SLSNZ Facemask policy Work outside where possible. Ventilate indoor spaces	No Risk ratings are not high as the risk of transmission outdoors is minimal. Risk can be adequately controlled with face masks.				
Paid Lifeguard supervisor (Interaction with other Lifeguards for longer than 15 minutes)	10-20	Co-workers are easily identified. Outdoor risk is Low for those they do contact.	Most work is outdoors where risk is Low. Sometimes close in a tower situation. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguards.	Moderate, but outdoor risk is Low. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguards.	Little to none = Low Risk	Some inside work = slightly higher than outside work.	No – co-workers will continue to be known at higher CPF levels	SLSNZ Facemask policy Work outside where possible. Ventilate indoor spaces	No Risk ratings are not high as risk of transmission outdoors is minimal. Risk increases when working in towers but can be controlled with face masks.				
Paid Lifeguard supervisor (Interaction with General Public for longer than 15 minutes)	10-20	Difficult but numbers and outdoor risk is Low. Contact tracing has also largely been dropped by government.	Most public interaction work is outdoors where risk is Low. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguards and public.	Generally brief. Outdoor risk is Low. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguard and public.	Little to none = Low Risk	Mainly Outside Work so Low Risk	Yes – public still have access to beaches at higher CPF levels. But number of contacts and risk of transmission outdoors is minimal	SLSNZ Facemask policy Work outside where possible. Ventilate indoor spaces	No Risk ratings are not high due to small numbers of interactions and largely outdoors. Risk can be adequately controlled with face masks.				
Duty Officer (Interaction with other Lifeguards for longer than 15 minutes)	10-20	Co-workers are easily identified. Outdoor risk is Low for those they do contact.	Most work is outdoors where risk is Low. Sometimes close in a tower situation. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguards.	Moderate, but outdoor risk is Low. Mask wearing policy adequately protects lifeguards.	Little to none = Low Risk	Some inside work = slightly higher than outside work.	No – co-workers will continue to be known at higher CPF levels	SLSNZ Facemask policy Work outside where possible. Ventilate indoor spaces	No Risk ratings are not high as risk of transmission outdoors is minimal. Risk increases when working in towers but can be controlled with face masks.				
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