



ROTARY NOTE NO. 2021/01

TOPIC: COVID SAFE CLUBS

Rotary in a post-COVID world is an evolving creature. Who would have thought even a year ago, Rotarians would not be able to physically gather at will, share fellowship and work on their projects, unfettered by Government and Health regulations? With the reality that COVID-19 is here to stay, we need to really work smarter at keeping Rotary alive and viable, globally but especially locally, in District 9675.

COVID safe operation means some changes to how we meet and how we interact with our stakeholders. Here are three key suggestions for your clubs to consider implementing:

1. **COVID Safe Board and Club Meetings** – you can decide which format suits your club best between -
 - a. Zoom (style) Virtual Meetings ensuring no physical contact between board or club members in time and cost-efficient meetings (there is no room hire, no travel and no catering required). You just need someone to hold a Zoom account to initiate and host the meetings;
 - b. Physical Meetings where, in a suitably set, COVID Safe venue, you meet with at least 1.5 metre distance between everyone, and all the protocols for minimising transmission are observed – temperature check on arrival, sanitisation, face masks, registration (for the venue's records) and all food or drinks ordered, delivered and consumed, done as individual serves;
 - c. Blended Meetings where you effect a combination of the first two options, with some attending a suitable venue and the others attending via Zoom or similar video-conferencing tool.
2. **Risk Management** – never has risk management been more important, especially given that our members are mostly in the high-risk age group, so COVID Safe strategies will include -
 - a. Projects involving contact with our community members are run along COVID Safe lines – as mentioned – face masks, temperature checks, sanitisation and recording attendees for potential infection tracing. To minimise transmission of infection by handling cash, consider using an EFTPOS Tap & Pay machine (e.g. bank provided or Square) as well as setting up some form of crowdfunding platform to collect donations without having to get together physically;
 - b. Ensuring you have done a risk assessment and any required insurances are in place for all events;
 - c. Ensuring you have considered, and appropriately actioned, Working with Children checks where required.
3. **Strategic Planning** – in order to ensure a successful and productive year, you will have held a strategic planning session with your board and hopefully had input from your club members. Now, by necessity, you need to apply the COVID Safe filter to the activities you have planned. You may be able to safely execute your whole plan however some elements may need to be cancelled, postponed or heavily modified, to suit the latest advice from the Government, through the issuing of Public Health orders. So ensure your plans, especially those relating to a Rotary Citation, are not derailed by COVID compliance requirements, and if they are, look at what you can substitute to still achieve your citation.



KEY POINT(S):

So to summarise, the three (3) key points to consider right now are:

1. COVID Safe Board and Club meetings to continue functioning as an effective but safe club;
2. Risk Management to ensure all potential hurdles to club performance have been dealt with and
3. Strategic Planning reviewed and adjusted to suit a COVID Safe outcome.

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