



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SHAYNE REESE SWIMMING – CORONAVIRUS & SWIMMING LESSONS

FAMILY UPDATE – Friday 20th March, 2020

To our wonderful Swim School families,

Shayne Reese Swimming continues to take its guidance and direction on the COVID-19 matter from the relevant expert health authorities, such as the World Health Organisation, the Australian Government Department of Health and the Department of Education. Our industry governing bodies, such as the Australian Swim Schools Association and Swim Australia are also providing us daily with specific advice on the virus and aquatic facilities.

On Wednesday 18th March, the Prime Minister addressed the country along with our Minister of Sport and provided the following recommendation which was passed down from the Australian Government Department of Health;

“Settings like gyms, indoor fitness centres and swimming pools are not required to close at this time providing they meet these requirements for social distancing and hand hygiene. Such venues should take actions to ensure regular high standards of environmental cleaning take place.”

Following this announcement, the Board of our governing body (Australian Swim Schools Association) met and are of the view that the decision of it's swim school members to continue to operate (or not) should align with Government direction and policy, and therefore, it's members **should continue to operate their businesses as usual for now.**

Let's Discuss What This Means...

Social Distancing:

Social Distancing has been enforced by the Australian Government with the intention to reduce the likelihood of spreading airborne disease such as COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The below graphic gives you a good perspective of what social distancing can achieve.

How will Shayne Reese Swimming implement Social Distancing?

- You will notice that the viewing area seating, pool deck bench seating and change room bench seating have been signed to create “distancing” between static patrons.
- We have also asked families to limit the number of guests that accompany students to swimming lessons to one parent/carer and leave siblings and other family at home. This will reduce our total number of patrons in one indoor area dramatically – keeping well and truly under the “100 people” for indoor gatherings limit.
- Our staff have been briefed with strategies to use whilst teaching in the pool which will help maintain social distancing. Please note; after consultation with the National Coronavirus Hotline, they quote “in cases where an organisation is unable to follow this guideline due to the nature of its operation Eg; teaching swimming, it is





permitted to transgress this guideline.” It is documented by numerous leading health authorities around the world that there is no evidence that Coronavirus can spread to humans through the use of pools. In-fact, proper operation, maintenance and disinfection (e.g. with chlorine – as per Australian requirements) of pools should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

Personal Hygiene:

When someone who has COVID-19 coughs or exhales they release droplets of infected fluid. Most of these droplets fall on nearby surfaces and objects – such as desks, tables or telephones. People could catch COVID-19 by touching contaminated surfaces or objects – and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. By enforcing strong personal hygiene regime we will help eliminate the spread of these droplets (germs).

How will Shayne Reese Swimming implement this?

- Staff are being asked to be diligent in their own personal hygiene, using soap and water to wash hands thoroughly, and hand sanitizer where available continually throughout the day.
- All teaching equipment is thoroughly submerged / washed / dunked in chlorinated pool water before each use – chlorinated water kills Coronavirus!
- You will notice that staff will be continuously disinfecting higher risk areas throughout the day including;
 - o Door handles: to facility entry, pool, change rooms, toilets, cupboards, office, entry gates (including glass) and toilet locks.
 - o Benches throughout reception, café and office.
 - o Tapware throughout changes rooms, reception and cafe.
 - o Light switches throughout reception, office and change rooms.
 - o Reception equipment: inc keyboards, phones, coffee machine dials and anything that they handle regularly.
- Our cleaning contractors have been asked to use greater personal hygiene to prevent the spread of any germs. They have also been asked to be more detailed in their cleaning of all swim centre areas including; walls, windows, seating, floors, baby change stations, tap ware, light switches, door handles, change rooms, toilets, viewing areas and reception areas. We can guarantee that all cleaning staff are using hospital grade, anti-bacterial cleaning products.
- We have also provided a hand sanitiser pump bottle at reception for families to use upon entry and all changerooms are stocked with soap dispensers which we urge families to regularly use.





What happens if COVID-19 reaches Shayne Reese Swimming?

We have introduced a new Workplace Policy specifically for COVID-19, which outlines what the process is if;

- A staff member is diagnosed,
- A staff members family member is diagnosed,
- A student and/or parent is diagnosed,
- What to do if a staff member is showing symptoms,
- What to do if you have travelled recently.

All staff have signed off on this Policy. We would like to assure you that the wellbeing of our customers and staff is, and always has been, our highest priority.

What does the future look like?

As mentioned above, we take advice on COVID-19 from expert Health Authorities and our Governing bodies. **IT IS OUR INTENTION TO REMAIN OPEN AND IN OPERATION UNTIL GOVERNMENT TELLS US OTHERWISE.** At present Government has said that all community sport and schools should remain open.

On a personal note, we believe Swimming Lessons provide the community not only with vital Swimming & Water Skills, but the physical, social and emotional development that is needed, especially now, to maintain quality of life. We dedicate our lives to promote Ballarat as a "No Drown Town" and I hate to imagine the ramification's if children are not participating in Swimming Lessons.

Term 2 Fees will be emailed out to families shortly. It's important to understand that if we are forced to shut down (however long that may be), all enrolments will be frozen until we are advised to reopen. This means, each student will have the same day and time for when we are operational again. We can reassure you that every lesson missed due to facility closure, will be credited back to the family to use towards future fees.

During this time of uncertainty, Education (which swimming lessons are) is right up there with Tourism and Hospitality for business impact. There is only one thing I am certain of, that we will come out the other side ok! The main thing we all need to do is keep ourselves and our families well, resilient and positive.

Hoping we all stay safe and well and this crisis is behind us very soon.

Shayne Reese & Luke Harper

Directors

Shayne Reese Swimming

