



# Geelong Aquatic Centre

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## **MESSAGE FROM GEELONG AQUATIC CENTRE RE THE COVID-19 VIRUS AND SWIMMING LESSONS**

*Please know that we are keeping a very close watch on the unfolding situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand the serious nature of this and hope each decision can have implications towards our swimmers, families and staff. Your safety and health is of utmost importance to all decisions we make at Geelong Aquatic Centre in following the advice of the Department of Health (Australian Government), the Department of Education (Australian Government), the Department of Health & Human Services (Victorian Government) and the World Health Organisation regarding novel coronavirus (COVID-19).*

***Right now all levels of Government are urging everyone to maintain hand hygiene, stay calm and not panic.***

*As families process this advice, we would like to share some information about coronavirus and swimming pools, so that we can all stay calm and not panic.*

- 1. Coronavirus CANNOT be transmitted in salt chlorinated swimming pool water. Our three pools are all salt chlorinated. Salt chlorinated water, when kept at recommended levels, is an effective sanitiser for coronavirus. Geelong Aquatic Centre has always, and will continue to, maintain high water quality levels. As always, our pool water in all pools is tested regularly throughout the day. To put this in context for you, the minimum chlorine content that we always maintain, as per health department requirement for swimming pools, is 150-250% above the minimum chlorine content required to render coronavirus inactive. Your whole body surface and every piece of equipment you touch is constantly being sanitised in a salt chlorinated swimming pool, as such it is one of the most sanitised environments you can be in.*
- 2. Maintaining hand hygiene is still the best method of prevention. Regularly washing your hands with soap and water is the most effective method of hand hygiene. We have provided hand sanitiser at the front reception counter for all to use. We are spraying and wiping all door knobs, hand rails and surfaces throughout the centre with sanitiser and disinfectant on a regular basis throughout the day.*
- 3. We have reviewed all of our cleaning procedures so that sanitiser is now included in all our cleaning products. As usual, all surfaces, including floors, walls, benches etc are wiped down with sanitiser.*

4. *As per health department advice, we have always maintained the protocol that anyone with flu like symptoms, not attend any activity within the centre. This continues to be our protocol.*
5. *We have reviewed, and are continuing to review, our incident response plans.*
6. *Please note that a swimming pool environment is very easy to sanitise as the whole area is water-proof; in this respect, it is the complete opposite of a school or childcare environment. We can literally pressure wash every surface down in a matter of hours. Luckily we do not have a gym or childcare facility attached to our centre.*

*In the event that the centre needs to close temporarily, we will be offering parents the choice of a make-up class or family swim voucher. If a student has to self isolate we will continue to offer unlimited make up classes. Additionally, if you require more time to take-up your make-up class, please let us know and we will extend any make-up class over the next term. We have made the decision to cancel our Intensive program in the first week of the holidays, so that we can complete an intense clean of all the facilities and equipment. The centre will be closed for swimming and family swim time during the holiday period, but the front desk and phones will be manned from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday.*

*Let us all respond thoughtfully, stay calm and not panic; and in the Australian tradition let us support and look out for each other with this situation and look forward to you continuing to enjoy your swimming lessons this year. We will get through this together. We thank you for your assistance. If there is anything further you wish to discuss, please contact us at Geelong Aquatic Centre on 52 225530 or by email to [admin@geelongaquaticcentre.com.au](mailto:admin@geelongaquaticcentre.com.au).*

*Regards*

*Deb & Geoff Gill*