

## **ARF COVID 19 Plan**

ARF has continued to monitor state and national health requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as restrictions have started to ease in the ACT we are seeing an emerging situation in NSW.

The **ARF COVID-19 Safety Plan and Program Guidelines** detail

1. the Wellbeing of our People and Animals
2. Physical Distancing, Hygiene and Cleaning
3. Record Keeping
4. ARF specific activities

It should be reiterated that we will amend/strengthen this plan in response to the ebbs and flow of the pandemic and directions from government health officials.

### **COVID-19 Safety Plan General**

This plan has been developed to help keep ARF's volunteers safe and to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

The plan follows and utilises the advice of the Australian Government, as well as the Australian state and territory governments.

It follows COVID-19 public health orders, and advice from government infection prevention and control departments.

#### **Scope**

This plan applies to ARF volunteers and it is to be followed in conjunction with the plans we visit COVID-19 Safety Plans and guidelines.

#### **Key definitions**

"close contact" refers to face-to-face contact in any setting with a confirmed or probable case, for greater than 15 minutes cumulative over the course of a week, or sharing of a closed space with a confirmed or probable case for a prolonged period (e.g. more than 2 hours) in the period extending from 48 hours before onset of symptoms in the confirmed or probable case.

"confirmed case" refers to a person who has been identified by an Australian Government health authority as being a confirmed case of COVID-19.

"host facility" refers to any facility that hosts an ARF volunteer

"priority area" refers to geographically localised areas with elevated risk of community transmission as identified by an Australian Government health authority.

"volunteer" refers to any person who gives their time to deliver ARF's work.

#### **Requirements and Guidelines**

The below guidelines are to be adhered to by ARF volunteers.

### ***Wellbeing of our people and animals***

All ARF volunteers are advised to review their own personal circumstances, health and carer status, considering the known risk factors associated with COVID-19, to determine if they want to undertake ARF in-person activity.

If any ARF volunteer is a confirmed case of COVID-19 they must not attend any ARF in-person activity.

If any ARF volunteer is unwell, including having even mild symptoms of fever, dry cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or tiredness they must not attend any ARF in-person activity.

If any ARF volunteer has returned from overseas in the last 14 days they must not attend any ARF in-person activity.

If any ARF volunteer has visited a COVID-19 localised Australian priority area in the last 14 days, they must not attend any ARF in-person activity.

If any ARF volunteer has been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days, they must not attend any ARF in-person activity.

Host facilities may advise the conditions of entry and government health directives related to their facility. These are to be strictly adhered to by all ARF volunteers.

If an ARF volunteer starts to feel unwell during an in-person activity, they must immediately cease the activity, isolate, inform the host facility, leave the facility, and seek appropriate medical advice.

Volunteers are to maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres between people at all times.

Volunteers are to avoid crowded areas and groups of people where maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 metres may be difficult.

If possible volunteers should handle only their own equipment and belongings, and avoid touching or handling other people's equipment or belongings and should avoid travelling together in the same vehicle.

If you do feel the need to clean your dog(s) please use appropriate dog based products.

### ***Hygiene and Cleaning***

The general guidance issued by governments applies to ARF volunteers regarding hand hygiene, avoid touching their eyes and mouth, appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette and PPE should that be required.

### ***Record Keeping***

ARF will keep names and mobile number or email address of all volunteers that have attended a pound or training for a period of at least 28 days.

These records will only be used for the purposes of tracing COVID-19 infections, will be stored confidentially and securely at all times, and be destroyed within 90 days.

Volunteers are encouraged to download the COVIDSafe app to assist with the COVID-19 contact tracing process.

## **ARF specific activities:**

### *Testing at pounds*

This will continue the above plan plus the facility's plan must be adhered to. The pound liaison will keep the details of each team/ person visit for 28 days.

### *Collection of surrenders*

ARF volunteers should feel free to ask any person they are to have contact with questions in relation to their travel (interstate or overseas) and if they have symptoms or have had contact.

Staying outside of a house would be preferable for ARF volunteers.

### *Meets and Greets*

ARF volunteers should feel free to ask any person they are to have contact with questions in relation to their travel (interstate or overseas) and if they have symptoms or have had contact.

Staying outside of a house would be preferable for ARF volunteers.

The ARF website will make it clear that people contacting ARF can be expected to be asked such question prior to one of our volunteers making physical contact.

### *Training sessions*

Should a training session be run ARF will adhere to these guidelines.

### *ARF stalls and events*

All ARF stalls and events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

### *Essential services*

ARF volunteers visiting pounds in Canberra, Queanbeyan, Goulburn and Yass have been provided with a letter signed by those facilities noting our volunteers are essential service volunteers.