

# Pygmy Possum Lodge

## COVID-Safe Lodge Operations

### Winter 2022 (August)

There have been regular COVID-19 cases at Charlottes Pass Village, and at Pygmy Possum, over this 2022 Winter season. This should not surprise anyone. On July 29, NSW had a 7-day average case count of 13,940. In the 2021 LGA lockdown season, the peak 7-day average was 1,401 on September 9; a tenth of the current average. COVID-19 is with us, and CPSR is no exception.

The Board's COVID-19 policy is aimed at reducing risk to our members and guests. We acknowledge that COVID-19 risk cannot be eliminated and that both vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons can catch and spread the infection. Federal and State Government policy and advice tell us that full vaccination, COVID-19 testing and strategies to reduce aerosol spread remain the best ways to minimise risk of infection.

Under this policy, all Members and Guests will be required to:

- Not come to Pygmy Possum Lodge if they are experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms. We will fully refund any bookings that are cancelled for this reason.
- Have a negative COVID-19 PCR or RAT immediately prior to departing for the Lodge. RATs are only effective when you do them properly. See [How to do a rapid antigen test \(RAT\)](#) for guidance. If you test positive you MUST stay home and isolate (NSW Health Orders).
- Agree to comply with the COVID-19 testing, isolation and evacuation procedure defined below. Isolation and evacuation are mandated by NSW Health orders and are not optional.

Consistent with government health recommendations, the Board encourages all guests to be up to date/fully vaccinated for their age or health status. There is also a good chance that you will be exposed to COVID-19 on your way to the lodge, or even while you are at the lodge, and we strongly recommend wearing a mask whenever possible, particularly when you're in crowded indoors settings, such as the SkiTube, the Perisher terminal and while on the oversnow. Wearing a mask whenever practical while you're at the lodge will further reduce the chances of you picking up a COVID-19 infection, and having to return home immediately to isolate rather than enjoying your skiing holiday in full.

COVID-19 is a highly infectious aerosol-spread disease and we have installed HEPA-filter air purifiers in the dining areas and the games room. These filters must be left on at all times.

#### **Waiver of Liability**

The Club's COVID-19 policy also requires that everyone over the age of eighteen who is included in a booking must complete an Online Waiver. The link to this Waiver will be emailed to the booking contact's email address in the week prior to the booking start date. It is the responsibility of that contact person to pass the waiver link onto the others included in their booking, and ensure that they also complete the waiver. The final booking confirmation email, including room allocations, will only be sent once these waivers have been completed.

The Board expects all members and guests to comply with the Club's COVID-19 policy and to answer honestly when completing the COVID-19 Waiver.

## **Masks**

Mask-wearing is currently mandatory on all public transport in NSW, such as the SkiTube and CPSR oversnow. You should also wear a mask within the lodge whenever possible, and when in indoor spaces such as bars and restaurants. Our experience from recent COVID-19 cases in the lodge has shown that wearing a mask can be quite effective at preventing the spread of the virus. There are surgical and N95 masks in the food store. These are free but please bring your own and only use the store as a backup.

## **If you have ANY possible COVID-19 symptoms**

Anyone who has ANY cold or flu-like symptoms must tell their lodge captain and take a RAT immediately. These tests are available in Food Store (Western end, near medications). If you test negative but still have any symptoms, take another test in the next 24 hours. One or two negative tests do not mean you don't have COVID-19 and that you may not be infecting other guests.

Any COVID-positive individuals must wear an N95 mask for the rest of their time in the lodge. The rest of their party should also wear masks as they will be close-contacts. Anyone with symptoms should also wear a mask to reduce the risk of spreading their respiratory virus to others, even if it turns out not to be COVID-19.

NSW Health Orders require that anyone who tests positive to COVID-19 MUST leave the Lodge and Charlotte Pass as soon as possible and RETURN to their normal place of residence to ISOLATE.

- Immediately notify your Lodge Captain that we have a COVID-19 case in the lodge. They will notify other guests in your wing, the Lodge Captain on other side and the Club Booking Officer (0425 256 255 and [booking.officer@elouerskiclub.asn.au](mailto:booking.officer@elouerskiclub.asn.au)).
- All COVID-positive people must isolate in their bedroom(s) till their evacuation over-snow arrives. Other members of their party must wear masks and can use the kitchens, but we request that they minimise their time in the common areas.
- Contact Charlotte Pass Resort to arrange over-snow evacuation. CPSR have special COVID-19 transport available to take you and your party back to Perisher. Call: 6457 4246 (or 6457 4200).
- COVID-positive people cannot travel on the SkiTube. You may have to arrange Taxi or Van transport out of Perisher. There are several services based in Berridale and Jindabyne that routinely provide an alternative to the SkiTube. Jindabyne Taxis (0484 375 101) have indicated that they will take COVID-positive passengers from Perisher back to Jindabyne or Bullocks Flat.

## **Isolation and Room Cleaning**

- Take home all your own clothes, used linen etc. Don't try washing any of your clothing or linen before leaving as you may not be able to dry it before you are evacuated.
- Put all Club Linen, including mattress protectors and bathmat, from the room(s) you occupied in a washing machine and start a HOT WATER wash. Notify your Lodge Captain you have done this and they will organise drying. You should not touch the linen after washing.
- After you leave, your Lodge Captain will organise the ventilation of your room(s), cleaning (spray and wipe) and sanitisation of all touch surfaces in your room (e.g. door knobs, push points, light switches, sink, toilet & shower, etc), They will also arrange for cleaning and sanitising in Common areas (Dining/Lounge, Kitchen, Games Room, Drying Room) and hall access to the isolation bedroom(s).