

RE: Smoking policy - Operation Soteria

To: "Maria Bubnic (DHHS)" [REDACTED] "Noel Cleaves (DHHS)" [REDACTED], "Braedan Hogan (DHHS)" [REDACTED], "REDACTED (DHHS)" [REDACTED]

Cc: "StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS)" <semc@health.vic.gov.au>, [REDACTED] (DHHS)" [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (DHHS)" [REDACTED], "Anthony J Kolmus (DHHS)" [REDACTED] (DHHS)" [REDACTED], COVID Directions <coviddirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>, sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au, [REDACTED] (DHHS)" [REDACTED], "Meena Naidu (DHHS)" <[REDACTED]> "Simon Crouch (DHHS)" [REDACTED]

Bcc: "Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS)" [REDACTED], "Brett Sutton (DHHS)" [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 01 Apr 2020 19:50:09 +1100

Dear colleagues

Thank you for your work.

Just an important reminder: all policy and oversight of **people in detention** is being handled in a strict chain of command, from:

- Chief Health Officer to
- Deputy CHO (today – Simon Crouch) to
- Deputy Public Health Commander Planning (Finn Romanes) to
- Director Health Regulation and Reform (Meena Naidu) to
- Authorised Officers (under Noel Cleaves and some other managers).

It is important that all direction, policy, reporting and arrangements do not break this chain.

If you have any insights or advice – please provide to the individual in the chain you deem most appropriate.

No policies, directions, exemptions, reporting, meetings to agree policy on these people or other activity outside this chain please.

This strict view is vital to safeguard the wellbeing and duty of care owed by the State to these people and legal and other risks to the department and its staff.

Legal advice is being provided on a near continuous basis to Meena and myself.

Kind regards

Finn

Dr Finn Romanes
Deputy Public Health Commander - Planning
Novel Coronavirus Public Health Emergency
[REDACTED]

Department of Health and Human Services
State Government of Victoria

From: Maria Bubnic (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 7:46 PM
To: Noel Cleaves (DHHS) [REDACTED]; Braedan Hogan (DHHS) [REDACTED]; Finn Romanes (DHHS) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Cc: StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED]

(DHHS) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 Anthony J Kolmus (DHHS) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS)
 [REDACTED]; COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]; 'sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au'
 <sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Smoking policy - Operation Soteria

Thanks Noel, these are useful insights and a reminder of how challenging the current situation is for all concerned. I gather the nurses are screening all persons under quarantine to identify pre-existing health conditions, management and risks as well as those who may need further assessment for COVID etc. It would be good to include the advice re: smoking cessation options in the protocol to make this available wherever possible. We acknowledge access to smoking areas will still need to be carefully managed on a case by case basis taking account of individual needs, social distancing measures and environmental constraints.

Maria Bubnic
 Assistant Director, Population Health

Regulation, Health Protection & Emergency Management Division
 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3040
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EA Contact: [REDACTED] t. (03) [REDACTED] | e. [REDACTED]

I work flexibly so sending this email now works well for me. However, I know we all work differently and respect that you will consider this email at a time that suits your working arrangements.

From: Noel Cleaves (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 11:46 AM
To: Maria Bubnic (DHHS) [REDACTED]; Braedan Hogan (DHHS) [REDACTED]; Finn Romanes (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Cc: StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]; Anthony J Kolmus (DHHS) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]; COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]; 'sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au' <sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Smoking policy - Operation Soteria

Hi to all,

I can add that the Crown Promenade has some smoking rooms (4 or 5 from memory) they are located on a different floor. To move a smoker to that floor, potentially many times a day, requires a security guard wearing PPE to escort them to that floor. We felt that the smoker needs to also wear some PPE so that don't potentially cross-contaminate surfaces that a security guard or other people then touch. We couldn't see how we could manage that process on a regular basis so as far as I'm aware we haven't used it.

It is pretty likely that there are smokers smoking in their rooms in the bathrooms etc but obviously that runs the risk of a fire alarm being triggered. We have had a complaint from one room at the Plaza that they could smell tobacco smoke in their room.

I haven't heard anything about smoking rooms at the other two hotels.

I am aware that some of our AO's have made the call to allow two people to leave the Plaza hotel with a security guard to smoke to reduce an escalating situation.

I have also seen nicotine patches and gm at one hotel (Metropole) that is administered on request by the nurses.

Noel Cleaves

Manager Environmental Health Regulation & Compliance | Environmental Health Regulation & Compliance Unit
 Health Protection Branch | Regulation, Health Protection & Emergency Management Division
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Follow the Chief Health Officer on Twitter [@VictorianCHO](https://twitter.com/VictorianCHO)

From: Maria Bubnic (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 11:24 AM
To: Braedan Hogan (DHHS) [REDACTED]; Finn Romanes (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Cc: StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 Anthony J Kolmus (DHHS) [REDACTED]; Noel Cleaves (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
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 [REDACTED]; 'sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au' <sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Smoking policy - Operation Soteria

Yes it did. We plan to finalise the physical activity policy advice today.

Maria Bubnic

Assistant Director, Population Health

[Regulation, Health Protection & Emergency Management Division](#)
 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3040
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EA Contact: [REDACTED] t. [REDACTED] | e. [REDACTED]

I work flexibly so sending this email now works well for me. However, I know we all work differently and respect that you will consider this email at a time that suits your working arrangements.

From: Braedan Hogan (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 11:22 AM
To: Finn Romanes (DHHS) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
Cc: StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED];
 Anthony J Kolmus (DHHS) [REDACTED]; Noel Cleaves (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>; Maria Bubnic (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] (DHHS) [REDACTED]
 'sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au' <sccvic.sctrl.health@scc.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Smoking policy - Operation Soteria

Hi all – did this progress yesterday?

Keen to land this and the physical recreation policy today as a priority.

Braedan

[Braedan Hogan](#)
 Deputy Director, Strategy and Policy
 Emergency Management Branch
 Regulation, Health Protection & Emergency Management Division
 Department of Health and Human Services
 50 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria 3000
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. REDACTED

e.

From: Finn Romanes (DHHS) REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 10:35 PM
To: REDACTED (DHHS) REDACTED
Cc: Braedan Hogan (DHHS) REDACTED
 StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>; REDACTED (DHHS)
 REDACTED; REDACTED (DHHS) REDACTED; Anthony J
 Kolmus (DHHS) REDACTED; Noel Cleaves (DHHS)
 REDACTED; REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTED
 COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>; Maria Bubnic (DHHS)
 REDACTED; REDACTED (DHHS) REDACTED
Subject: RE: Smoking policy - Operation Soteria

Hi REDACTED

Could you send through the smoking advice for people in detention – I can place it in the plan ASAP

Finn

Dr Finn Romanes
 Deputy Public Health Commander - Planning
 Novel Coronavirus Public Health Emergency

REDACTED

Department of Health and Human Services
 State Government of Victoria

From: REDACTED (DHHS) REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 12:04 PM
To: REDACTED (DHHS) REDACTED; COVID Directions
 <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>
Cc: Braedan Hogan (DHHS) REDACTED; Finn Romanes (DHHS)
 REDACTED; StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS)
 <semc@health.vic.gov.au>; REDACTED (DHHS) REDACTED; Anthony J
 Kolmus (DHHS) REDACTED; Noel Cleaves (DHHS)
 REDACTED; REDACTED (DHHS) REDACTED
 Maria Bubnic (DHHS) REDACTED; REDACTED (DHHS)
 REDACTED
Subject: RE: Smoking policy - Operation Soteria

Thanks REDACTED

We have prepared some advice that we will be sending through any second now. Our recommendation is that people will be supported to manage cravings through the provision of nicotine replacement therapy and telephone counselling.

REDACTED

Manager, Tobacco Control
 Prevention and Population Health, Regulation, Health Protection & Emergency Management Division
 Department of Health and Human Services | GPO Box 4057, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001
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I acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and pay my respect to them, their culture and their Elders past, present and future

From: REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 11:01 AM
To: COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>
Cc: Braedan Hogan (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Finn Romanes (DHHS) <REDACTED>; StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>; REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTED>; REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Anthony J Kolmus (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Noel Cleaves (DHHS) <REDACTED>
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Hi I'm advised that the key issue is really about people leaving their rooms securely. With the hotel's cooperation establishing a designated smoking room/s (such as how high roller room operates) would be the best solution that has appropriate density and hygiene parameters. (There is exemption under s5A(2) I've copied in REDACTED the tobacco manager and those involved in compliance and enforcement.

Ming

REDACTED
 Principal Regulatory Policy Advisor Health Protection
 t. REDACTED | m. REDACTED

From: COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 10:35 AM
To: REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Cc: COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>; Braedan Hogan (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Subject: FW: Smoking policy - Operation Soteria

Hi REDA

I have started today monitoring the COVIC directions inbox. Nice to e-meet you.

RED advised you may be able to assist with this or point me in the direction of someone that may be able to assist?

Regards,

REDACTED
 Principal Community Recovery Officer
 Emergency Management and Health Protection
 South Division
 Department of Health and Human Services
 8-12 Seymour Street (PO Box 1661), Traralgon, Victoria, 3844
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From: Braedan Hogan (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 9:26 PM
To: Finn Romanes (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Merrin Bamert (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Cc: COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>; StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>

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Thanks – do we have a health prevention person that can develop this?

We don't have anyone

[Braedan Hogan](#)
 Deputy Director, Strategy and Policy
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 Department of Health and Human Services
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 p. REDACTED m. REDACTED
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From: Finn Romanes (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 5:53 PM
To: Braedan Hogan (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Merrin Bamert (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Cc: COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>; StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>
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There is in principle support in here for allowing a person – if monitored in some way – to have a smoking break on a balcony or outdoors if that is the lesser harm option.

Can you put a proposal up with parameters / strict parameters and I will ask Annaliese to endorse as a policy?

Finn

Dr Finn Romanes
 Deputy Public Health Commander - Planning
 Novel Coronavirus Public Health Emergency
 REDACTED

Department of Health and Human Services
 State Government of Victoria

From: Braedan Hogan (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 5:23 PM
To: Merrin Bamert (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Finn Romanes (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Cc: COVID Directions <COVIDdirections@dhhs.vic.gov.au>; StateEmergencyManagementCentre SEMC (DHHS) <semc@health.vic.gov.au>
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Hi – we need to develop a policy position on allowing smoking at the hotels.

I think this need to be considered with input with AO on the ground and how this can be operationalised.

Braedan

[Braedan Hogan](#)
 Deputy Director, Strategy and Policy
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