**Zone A Statement and Guidance Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic**

As the Covid-19 outbreak progresses, Club Leaders should now be seriously considering its impact on the 2020 flying season for your individual Clubs. Currently, the indicated strategy for slowing down the rate of new infections is ‘physical distancing’ – staying out of the breathing/contact range of other people. If successful, the ‘physical distancing’ strategy will slow the infection rate but prolong the outbreak for several more months.

Club Leaders are strongly urged to consider the best balance between their members’ health, enjoyment of our hobby and public safety as the 2020 flying season gets underway. As such, my current recommendations to Club Leaders for meetings and events which are planned between now and Canada Day are:

1) Indoor club meetings and flying sessions should be cancelled until further notice. As the weather warms, consider outdoor meetings while respecting recommended precautions and social distancing.

2) Planned flying events open to other clubs and the public should be either cancelled or changed to club members only. (Safety impact: spotters can’t function under social distancing protocols)

3) MAAC sanctioned open events that are cancelled or changed to members only should be ‘de-listed’ on the MAAC events page immediately upon reaching a formal Club decision

4) Food and drink preparation should be by individual members for their own consumption. (Avoid any group handling)

5) Members should be encouraged to use their own hand sanitizers. (Minimize group handling)

6) Regular flying activities should continue while respecting recommended precautions, physical distancing and MAAC safety rules; until and unless health authorities issue further guidance.

7) Members should be formally requested to stay home if they are not feeling well for the currently recommended period of 14 days.

8) Continue to monitor Health Canada’s Covid-19 web site ([Health Canada’s Covid-19 web site](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html) ) for the latest information on this rapidly developing situation.

9) Use your common sense, and if that doesn’t work for you and you’re still in doubt, don’t. I prefer to be contacted via email. If I can’t answer your question(s) I will find someone who can. Don’t worry about MAAC insurance. If you have a valid MAAC membership you’re covered.

10) Try to have fun with your RPAS’s, your wife, your husband, your children, your girlfriend, your boyfriend, your partner, your whatever!

Finally, please be aware that the possibility exists that the recommendations above will be extended to Labour Day and beyond, depending on how the outbreak progresses and how the government responds. 2020 is shaping up to be an unforgettable year for all of us. On behalf of A Zone’s very capable Deputy Zone Director Brad Cleland, Assistant Zone Directors Scott Crosby, David Johansen, and Gordon Van Tighem, the very best to you all. Your MAAC Leadership teams are counting on your support and diligence as we face this unprecedented future together.

Regards, Roger Ganley