

4 August 2020

Dear Residents

Covid-19 Update #10 – Reopening of The Pier gym Tuesday 4 August

The good news is that NSW Health now says our gym can open. Accordingly, it is now open. Getting to this point hasn't been easy.

On Wednesday 29 July, the NSW government announced that, from 12.01am Saturday August 1, gyms needed a dedicated COVID-19 Safety Hygiene Marshall to be on duty all the time the gym was open and who could do nothing but supervise COVID-19 safety procedures. We rang the Service NSW Covid team to ask if this rule applied to strata gyms and were told, it did. Building Management, separately, rang Service NSW to ask the same question and got the same answer. Strata Management and Strata Community Association (SCA) all received the same response.

When the official NSW Public Health Order was released on Saturday morning, it seemed that maybe we were not a gym open to members of the public". Following calls to the Service NSW COVID team on Saturday night, we were told we were misreading the order. As our gym draws its membership from more than one household group, we were technically open to the public", even though the public" in this case is limited to The Pier residents.

Over the weekend, a group of residents worked through a potential solution where members of The Pier who wanted to use the gym could nominate themselves as Covid-19 Marshalls", and undertake the required responsibilities, which would allow access to the gym. In working through the practicality of this plan, fob access to the gym was arranged.

On Monday morning, our Strata Manager contacted the SCA about the gym. Yes, the SCA said, our gym had to have a Marshall or stay shut but they would continue to clarify the position.

Then, on Monday afternoon, NSW Health posted on their website additional advice which stated that the new rules do not apply to apartment building gyms. The specific reference from NSW Health website is

".. GYMS

GYMS MUST HAVE A COVID-19 SAFETY HYGIENE MARSHALL PRESENT AT ALL TIMES THE GYM IS OPEN AND BE REGISTERED AS COVID SAFE.

THIS APPLIES TO GYMS THAT ARE INDOORS AND OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

IF A GYM IS NOT OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, THE COVID SAFE REQUIREMENTS DO NOT APPLY. THIS EXEMPTION APPLIES TO GYMS IN HOTELS, WORKPLACES AND RESIDENTIAL PREMISES (SUCH AS A HOME OR AN APARTMENT BUILDING). ..."

So the gym has reopened.

We live in interesting times, but the infection risks are significant so we will continue our cautious approach.

We do believe that most of our gym users at The Pier have been following the rules as requested. The Pier gym procedures are as follows.

1. Maximum of 3 people. If there are already 3 people there, come back later.
2. You will now need to use your fob to open the gym door.
3. Sign in, in the book at the door: your name, your apartment, and the time you entered. A fob will not let us know the person in the gym. Bringing your own pen to sign in is a good idea, too.
4. Bring your own towel and water.
5. Sanitise your hands.
6. Clean all equipment you re going to use, in every place you touch it.
7. Go through your gym routine.
8. When finished, wipe down all equipment in every place you touched it.
9. Note the time you leave in the sign-in book.
10. Sanitise your hands.
11. Leave the air-conditioning on. Lights are up to you.

Incidentally, if you notice another user not following these procedures, you might gently remind them, or mention it to the concierge. Gyms have proven to be an area of hygiene concern, and it s up to us to keep our gym safe.

The Pier Strata Committee