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4th February 2022

Covid Advisory No 25

Dealing with Covid-19 and the mandates of Government over the last two years has been a challenge for all of us.

Our role has been to interpret the messages emanating from Government and offer advice to Clubs.

Clubs, quite rightly, are legal entities and are responsible for their own members. Each club should make considered decisions for their members after considering advice from the Ministry of Health, New Zealand Bridge, and others.

Recently Government set out its policy over the wearing of face masks. This we shared with you. Then a few days later it amended its advice to say face masks were not mandated for gatherings where such gatherings were for exclusive use.

It is interesting to observe the mixed response by Clubs.

In our considered opinion it does not matter what Government says or does not say on this matter. What is important is the welfare of players and people who work at bridge clubs. We all know the demographic is of an older age group with a range of co-morbidities. Notwithstanding a high proportion of players being double vaccinated and many with boosters it does not stop the risk of players being infected by Omicron or Delta. We suggest the small inconvenience of wearing a mask in the short term outweighs the consequence of a member becoming sick or at worse dying.

Further should we have an outbreak of Omicron within a bridge club then we (the collective we) risk adverse publicity and unforeseen consequence.

The decision clubs have to take is what is in the best interest of their membership.

We all hope we get through this mess as soon as possible and we can get on with leading a better life.

Allan Morris
Chair- NZ Bridge Inc

PS:

A reminder for Clubs and Regions regarding the transfer of scheduled tournaments from face to face to RealBridge. Please complete the application form (emailed to all Clubs and Regions in Dec 2021) and forward to Alister so that the change can be approved and documented here.