

103.1 3BBRFM

Special E-Bulletin #4 June 2020

At its meeting held 27th May by ZOOM video-conference the 3BBRFM Board noted that the Government had announced an easing of some of the Covid-19 restrictions to take effect from 1st June 2020. The Board reviewed our current shut-down policy, and re-affirmed our paramount concern is the health and safety of its presenters and volunteers.

The Board has taken into account guidance and resources from the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA) <https://www.cbaa.org.au/> which includes:

- A Checklist for Returning to Community Radio Stations
- Studio Hygiene and Cleaning Policy Template
- Studio Sign In Sheet

We think a cautious, risk-averse approach is essential in working toward re-opening the studio for live broadcasting. This means we must ensure:

- scrupulous attention to maintaining the highest standards of cleaning/sanitizing so that all touchable surfaces are virus free.
- social distancing measures are strictly observed.
- presenters in Covid-19 high risk categories are not put at risk of infection through contact or transmission (people at high risk include age 70 years and over, people suffering chronic medical conditions including high blood pressure, heart and lung conditions, kidney disease, diabetes, cancer, weakened immune systems).
- that any presenters who feel unwell, have experienced cold or flu-like symptoms or have had contact with people who have been coughing, sneezing, or exhibiting other flu-like symptoms DO NOT come into the station.

We are looking to have a well thought through staged return to live broadcasting. Initially, presenters who are not in COVID-19 high risk categories and who can competently operate the OTS program will be able to return provided they agree to follow the conditions set down for a) strict cleaning and personal hygiene, b) use of the studio and equipment, c) maintaining social distancing requirements, including NO visitors or guests, and d) maintaining station security.

Presenters who are presently broadcasting from home or pre-recording programs should continue to do so unless they have a strong reason to not do so.

The programming schedule will not have back-to-back live presenters so that there is sufficient time to perform the required strict cleaning procedures. We may be able to use both Studio One and Two for live broadcasting to ensure there is sufficient time for cleaning after each broadcast.

The 3BBRFM Return to Normal Broadcasting Plan

The Board has adopted the following plan to do this:

1. Undertake a survey of all current presenters to find out how many of our presenters wish to return to live broadcasting from the studio and who are willing to agree to the conditions for maintaining cleanliness and use of the studio.
2. This step is entirely voluntary: - Presenters interested in returning to live broadcasting complete an application form including an agreement to comply with the conditions set out on the form. Those who do not wish to return do not have to complete the application form.
3. The Board will consider and may approve applications on the basis of the presenter's agreement to meet the conditions and the programming needs of the station. (Individual presenters should not expect to retain their previous time slots).
4. A programming schedule will be developed which includes live broadcasting and home/prerecorded broadcasts.
5. A sign in/sign out form will be provided, which presenters must complete before entering the studio and after leaving it.
6. Prior to implementing this plan, the station premises will be disinfected again and the station will supply hand sanitizer dispensers, soap and antiseptic wipes.

The Board is currently working on the details of the Presenter Survey, the conditions, the application (EoI) form, and other operational procedures which will be needed. These will be circulated as soon as possible.

I'd like to thank all presenters and members for their patience as we continue operating under the strain of restrictions. I know that many presenters are "champing at the bit" to get back into action in front of a studio microphone. The Board believes that this cautious approach should see us through what has been a trying time.

Best wishes, Rod

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