



COVID-19 IMPACTS MODEL AVIATION

by Rich Hanson

Excerpts from May Issue of Model Aviation.

THE OUTBREAK OF the COVID-19 virus has had a dramatic effect on our nation and our society. To a lesser extent, it has impacted the aeromodelling community. This is not to say that we can't continue to participate in the hobby and enjoy our aeromodelling activities.

It's important that we follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and adhere to local health authority and government directives.

We need to consider our fellow hobbyists and club members and be attentive in practicing safe hygiene and preventative measures.

The average age of our members falls within the vulnerable age category, making it imperative that we be vigilant in adhering to the current guidelines and restrictions.

The impact of the COVID-19 virus varies significantly across the country. Some areas have been severely impacted with thousands of infections, while others report only a handful of cases.

AMA clubs and members need to consider their individual circumstances when participating in model aviation activities. It's important to follow local restrictions and directives.

The following suggestions are offered to protect yourself and others while allowing everyone to continue to enjoy the hobby:

Hygiene ->

- Clubs should endeavor to provide hand-cleaning materials at club facilities or members should supply their own.
- Clubs should sanitize club facilities such as restrooms, kitchens, dining, and seating areas.
- All members should adopt good hygiene practices and social distancing when interacting with others.
- Members should not use communal cups or shared kitchenware. Bring your own or use packaged, disposable utensils.
- Members should frequently wash their hands in warm water for a minimum of 20 seconds, use paper products to avoid directly touching doors, club locks, refrigerators, etc., and avoid touching their mouths and faces.

- Avoid personal contact such as shaking hands. A congenial wave, eye contact, and a friendly hello make for a great greeting.
- Clubs should consider suspending communal meals such as snacks, barbecues, and potlucks, and encourage members to bring their own food.
- If supplying food, clubs should ensure that food preparation complies with local health standards and is served using gloves, aprons, and hairnets to prevent contamination.
- Avoid sneezing or coughing over food or in the presence of others, and use a tissue or your sleeve to capture escaping droplets.
- If you have any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue or difficulty breathing), self-isolate and don't participate in club activities until you're clear of symptoms. If diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, wait to go out in public until you're cleared by competent medical personnel.

AMA has recently issued the following policy regarding aeromodelling events affected by the COVID-19 outbreak:

Club Events:

- All clubs should consider putting in place temporary rules necessary to protect their members and the general public.
- If a CD [contest director] or EM [event manager] cancels an event, AMA will allow sanctions, events ads and insurance certificates to be rescheduled at no additional charge. Events must be rescheduled during the 2020 calendar year.
- Clubs should consider postponing large events and postpone or cancel events that involve larger attendance by members from other clubs or the public occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- These suggestions are not exhaustive, and clubs should consider implementing other preventative measures as appropriate.
- All individual clubs face unique conditions within their respective communities. As such, they should make their own rules and policies based on their local circumstances.
- Safety is our primary focus. Whether it is rules regarding the operation of our model aircraft or the procedures relating to hosting events and meetings, our responsibility is to our community and the general public.