



Thursday, 9 April 2020

**Re: ESSENTIAL SERVICES**  
**Public Health and Structural Professional Pest Management and Sanitation Services**

The Australian Environmental Pest Managers' Association (AEPMA) as the peak national body representing the Professional Pest Management industry at both Federal and State government levels, is responsible for developing the culture of professionalism in the protection of public health and properties.

The professional pest management industry is an essential service that is responsible for the protection of public health, food and property. The importance of these services has never been of greater concern than now, with the spread of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) the causative virus of Covid-19 disease.

The bearer of this letter can be identified as a Professional Pest Manager from their State government issued pest management licence and is required to travel to perform essential public health and structural professional pest management and sanitation services. They will only be proceeding directly to work and not undertaking any other non-essential services whilst on the way.

Researchers from Princeton, UCLA and the US National Institutes of Health have found that the virus can survive two to nine days on surfaces such as stainless steel, wood, paper, plastics and glass. (Kampf, G. et al, 2020<sup>i</sup>). Pests such as rodents and cockroaches are known to transport various viral diseases and, given the persistence of the SARS-CoV-2 on surfaces, it is essential that we maintain vigilance and ensure premises are routinely protected from infestations by insect and rodent pests.

The importance of the pest control industry to the nation as an essential service cannot be understated.

Yours faithfully

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Vasili Tsoutouras  
President

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<sup>i</sup> Kampf, G. *et al.* Persistence of coronaviruses on inanimate surfaces and their inactivation with biocidal agents. *Journal of Hospital Infection*, Volume 104, Issue 3, 246 – 251 (2020).