



News from the Covid-19 AFC Response Team Monday, 6 April 2020 Newsletter 3

The weekend has brought with it a general 'vibe' from the Government that the "curve is flattening in Australia". Specifically, interventions to reduce 'R' (transmission) such as social distancing and quarantining are working.

We welcome this encouraging data and deeply hope that as a state and nation we are on the 'down-slope'.

But have these measures actually worked? Or are a smaller number of COVID-19 positive cases just a reflection of biased testing towards travellers?

At present how significant is community spread? Is it possible to know?

The Government is set to release epidemiological modelling in the coming weeks which will hopefully provide insight into these questions.

Below is a brief summary of COVID-19 related news items that have been published over the past couple of days. Each newsletter will be uploaded to our website.

CURRENT SITUATION

Globally

- As at 11:45am 6 April 2020 - internationally there have been 1,273,499 proven cases of COVID-19 and 69,451 deaths so far (www.worldometers.info).
- Globally mortality is approximately 5%.
- The rate of increase of test positive cases remains exponential.

Nationally

- As at 6:00am on 6 April 2020, there have been 5,744 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia. 109 new cases have been identified in the previous 24 hours. There have been 39 deaths reported.
- Australian mortality stands at approximately 0.4%

Locally

- There are a total of 409 confirmed cases in South Australia.
- Clusters have been identified in the Barossa Region, Adelaide Airport and Ruby Princess cruise ship. Testing criteria has been changed to reflect these 'hotspots'.
- There are currently 7 patients in the ICU at the RAH who are COVID-19 positive.
- Currently there have been no reported COVID-19 related deaths in South Australia.



UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Coronavirus Testing at Australian Family Care (AFC)

- Patients who **fit the current SA Health COVID-19 testing criteria** should not enter any AFC clinic. Instead COVID-19 suspect cases may be offered a car assessment by their GP, or sent to an appropriate COVID-19 testing centre, respiratory clinic, or drive-through service for testing. Information regarding car assessments can be found here:

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/83ae6bd8-0325-46bc-aa89-05cf922e5dd4/Flowchart+-+General+Practice+%28GP%29+IC+carpark+teleconference+patient+flow.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE-83ae6bd8-0325-46bc-aa89-05cf922e5dd4-n4liLP4>

- Patients who present with cold and/or flu symptoms AND **do not fit the current SA Health COVID-19 testing criteria** may be assessed via a 1) telehealth consultation; and/or a 2) car assessment. If absolutely necessary, these patients may be reviewed inside a clinic. However, upon entering the clinic, the patient must wear a surgical mask and maintain social distancing at all times. A doctor examining the patient must wear a surgical mask and gloves and ensure adequate hand hygiene at all times. After the consult, all equipment must be wiped down as per infection control guidelines. The consult should be “paperless” such that any prescriptions, referral letters, and/or patient information sheets are sent electronically.

NEWSFEED

SA Health and GP Liaison

- Point of Care Testing for COVID-19 testing undertaken outside of SA Pathology or the Department of Health and Well-being for COVID-19 is now illegal. Here is the direction:

https://www.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/606549/Signed-Direction-Prohibition-of-Point-of-Care-Serology-Tests-COVID-19-Direction-2020.pdf

- If a COVID-19 positive patient who is not in the ‘hospital in the home pathway’, who needs medical care and unable to phone their usual GP, or it is an emergency, then they should call 000. These patients will be assessed by SAAS and if they need ED attendance, will be transported to the RAH, depending on the patient's age. This also applies for rural patients.
- COVID-19 positive patients must not attend their local ED unannounced.
- For escalation of care for country patients SAAS will take COVID-19 patients to the appropriate site that has been agreed to in consultation with the regional local health network, with subsequent transfer to the RAH (or other designated COVID hospital) at the earliest opportunity.
- Associate Professor David Shaw from the RAH has provided a talk about our N95 supply, use in our current environment, and current research attempting to disinfect and ‘recycle’ N95 masks. You can find his talk here:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Azcbrzew4_I&feature=youtu&fbclid=IwAR0v1PEyxKkEhnl-YZnFjbp-p7syGMbu82auLQ9wNAHAemJb_3FO2wY28s

- A new \$1.9 million CT-scanner and a VIE 7000 oxygen tank arrived at Wakefield Hospital last week.
- Wakefield Hospital together with ECH College Grove, will provide 188 additional beds for COVID-19 patients.
- The Chief Public Health Officer, Associate Professor Nicola Spurrier, mayors and councils are asking people to stay at home this Easter and school holidays to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

OTHER NEWS

Flu Clinic

- McIntyre Medical Centre held its first flu clinic over the weekend.
- The clinic was carried out as a 'drive-through' service with transportable containers for staff while patients stayed in their cars.
- The clinic was able to see one car per five minutes and this proved to be very efficient and convenient for families.
- At future clinics it will be possible to see more than one car per five minutes.
- Staff safety was assured using a no touch technique at every step.
- Patient safety was assured using PPE on all staff.

Website

- Please check out the new website. It contains quick links to the following COVID-19 topics:
 - Department of Health Coronavirus Health Alert (includes up-to-date infographics)
 - SA Health + GP Liaison Health Updates
 - Reference tools for GPs
 - End-of-Life Care
 - Aged Care Management and Advice
 - Management Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Populations
 - Evidence-based Medicine

The Staff Resources page can be found here:

<https://www.australianfamilycare.com/covid-19-info-staff/>

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- If you have a topic that you believe is relevant to COVID-19 and applicable to our work processes, please send it through to Dr Renee Petrilli (renee.petrilli@australianfamilycare.com). These items will be distributed via our COVID-19 newsletter and website.



ETHOS

- Our ultimate aim is safety for our patients, our families, our community and ourselves. If we are not well we are unable to care for others.

Dr Renee Petrilli and Dr Brian Symon