

Our ref H20/73638

General Practitioner COVID-19 update – 15 July 2020

The outbreak of COVID-19 continues in Victoria and an outbreak has been detected in South Western Sydney, associated with the Crossroads Hotel in Casula. While cases to date have been all linked epidemiologically, there remains an ongoing risk of transmission from both Victoria and South Western Sydney to other parts of NSW.

It is vital that cases are found early, by ensuring high rates of testing are maintained throughout NSW and especially in areas that may have had a recent influx of arrivals from Victoria.

Please encourage your patients to come forward for COVID-19 testing if they have any **respiratory symptoms, loss of sense of smell or taste, or unexplained fever**, regardless of exposures they report. Information about testing and updated COVID-19 advice for health professionals can be found at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/advice-for-professionals.aspx>

Any health care, aged care, disability support workers or residents or others who live or work in a sensitive setting, should be noted on the laboratory request form so their test can be prioritised. Additional information about prioritisation for public health purposes is available here: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/communities-of-practice/Pages/testing-prioritisation.aspx>

For further information about current outbreaks, please see <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>. **It is important to regularly check the website, as this list may expand.** Please note that people who attended the Crossroads Hotel, Casula (3-10 July), Picton Hotel (4, 5, 9, 10 July) or Planet Fitness Gym, Casula (4-10 July) have been told to immediately self-isolate for 14 days since they last visited the venue and get tested, even if they are asymptomatic. They need to continue isolation, regardless of the initial swab result, and get retested if they develop symptoms.

Thank you for being responsive to the need to increase testing to ensure any new cases or outbreaks are identified and managed rapidly. If you would like more information, please contact your local NSW Health public health unit on 1300 066 055.



Dr Kerry Chant
Chief Health Officer
NSW Health

15 July 2020