Coronavirus (COVID-19)

RACGP Victoria update webinar
Wednesday 11 November 2020

For the latest information
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

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COVID-19 and cancer care

Presentation – RACGP + DHHS Webinar

Tuesday 11th November 2020

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Co-Chair Victorian Cancer COVID-19 Network
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E-Path

- An automated pathology reporting system
- Identifies cancer-related reports from laboratory IT systems and transmits them to the Victorian Cancer Registry.
- As soon as a report is signed off by pathologist, E-Path at VCR receives the copy of report (if selectable and reportable).
- Approximately 94% of pathology submitted in Victoria use E-Path.
- Has a very high sensitivity in detecting cancer reports >99%
- Over the past 12 months E-Path has been improved to improve specificity of reporting (reduce duplicates)

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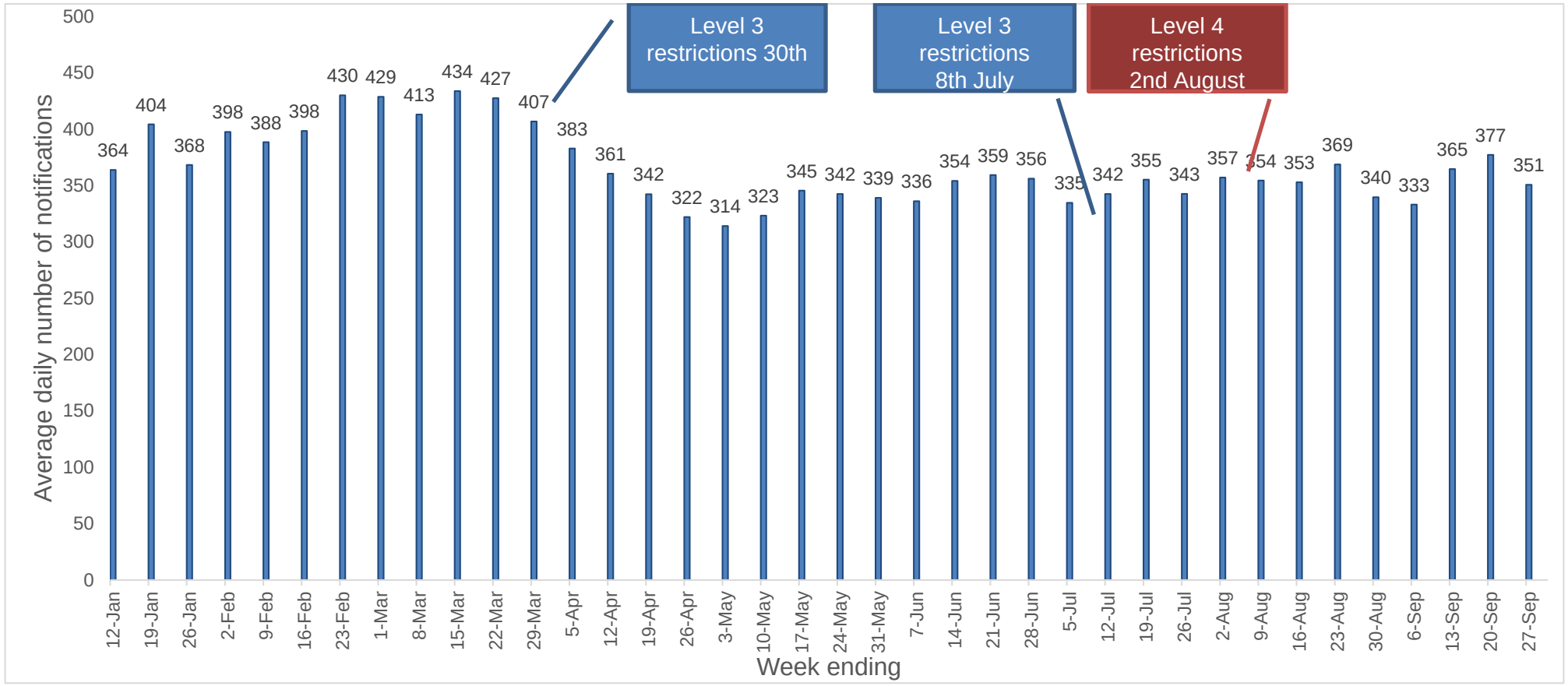
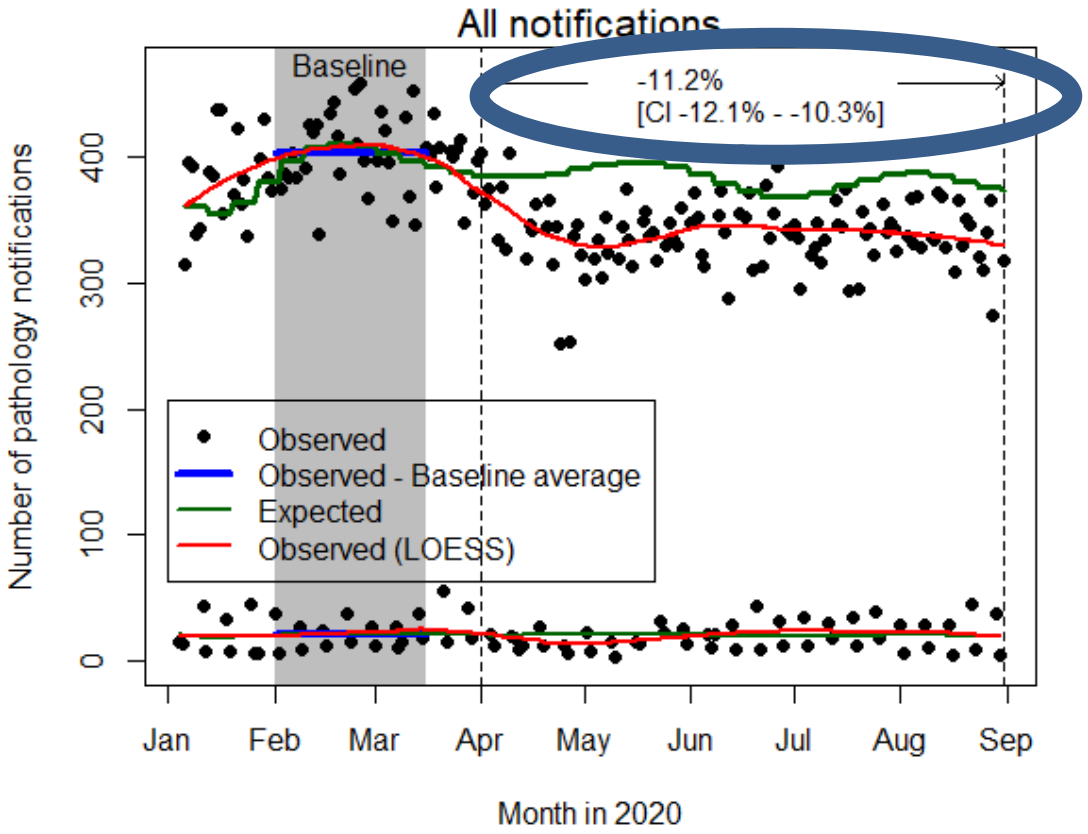
E-Path Monitoring Console: average daily notifications

(includes specimens received within 1 week of specimen taken date)



IN CONFIDENCE

Overall reduction in notifications



Baseline period to scale incidence data to notification data = Feb 1st – March 16th

For the period April 1st and August 31st:

11.2% reduction in pathology notifications [95% confidence interval -12.1 to -10.3%]

4654 fewer pathology notifications than expected

Reasons for reduced notifications

- Reduction in primary care consultations
- Reduced imaging and pathology investigations
- Some impact screening

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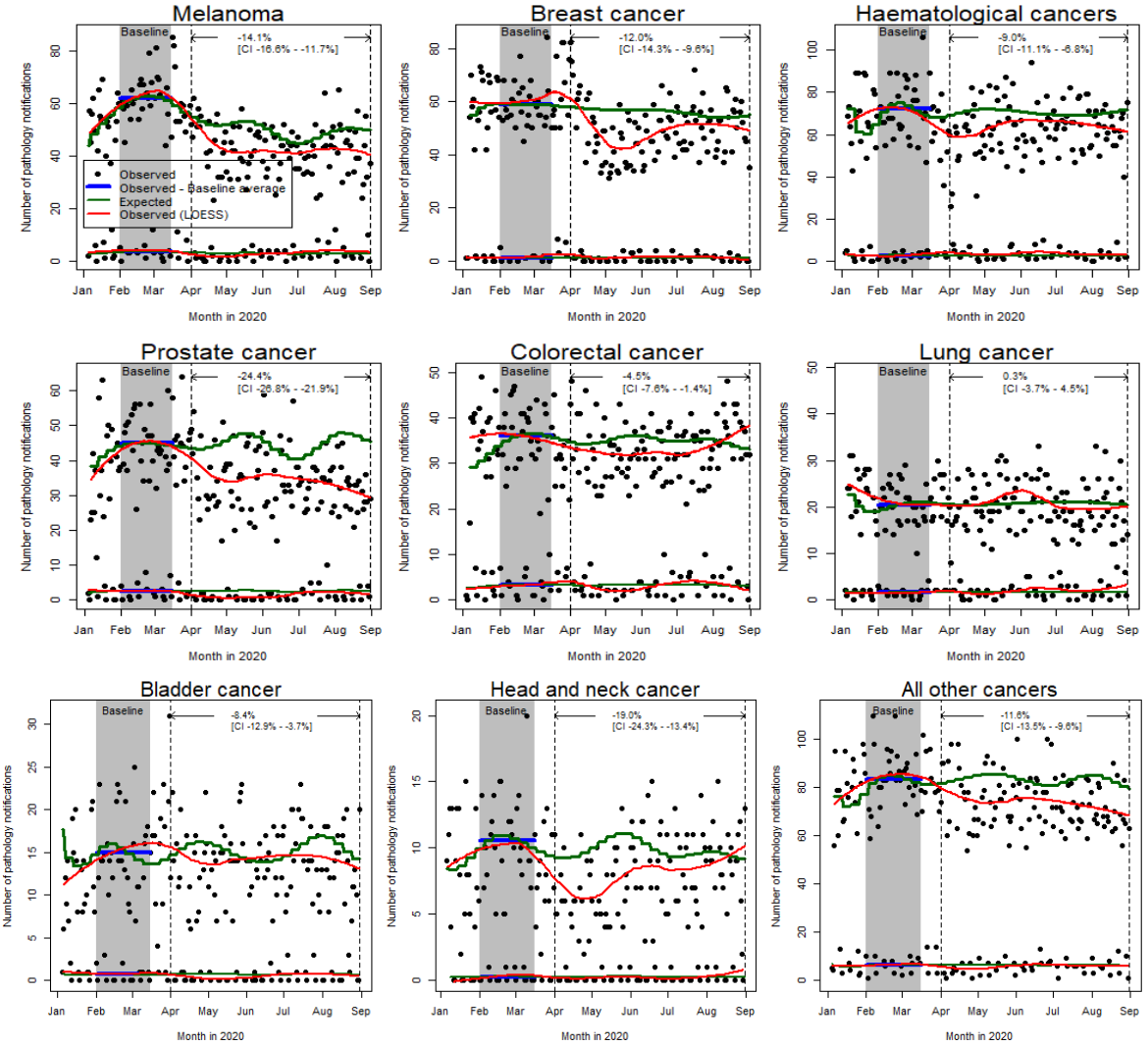
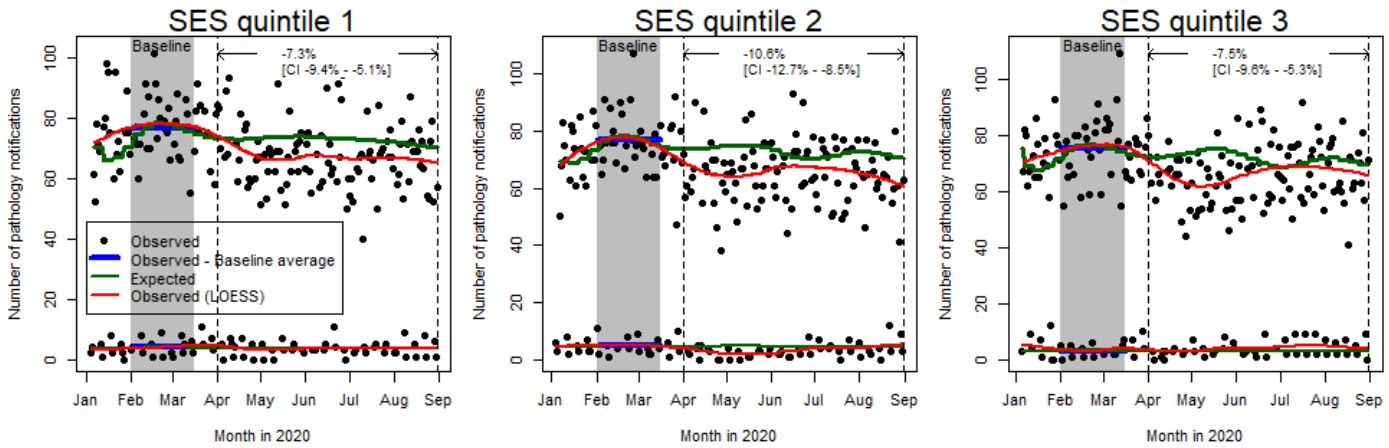
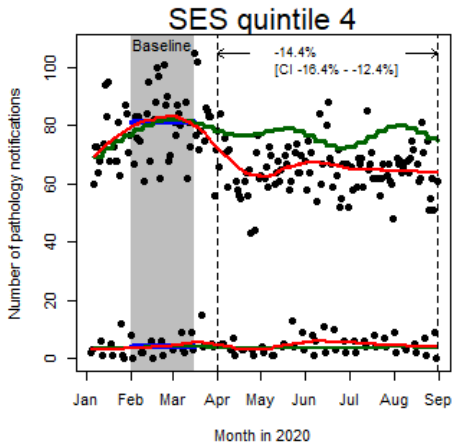
Trends in cancer diagnosis

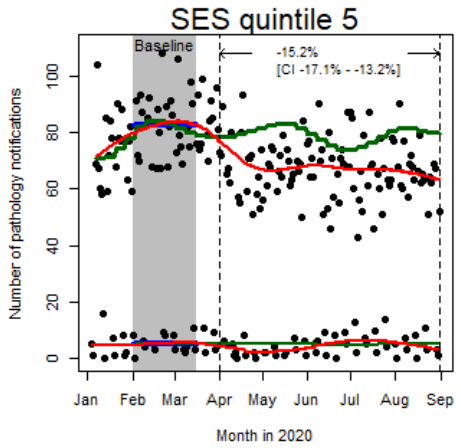


- Melanoma shows has a large seasonal drop in diagnoses after March. Drop off in notifications still notable
- Breast cancer drop off associated with closure of BreastScreen services and then some return of services
- Prostate cancer notifications continue to decline (24.4% decline for period 1st April to 31st August 2020
- Colorectal cancer notifications seem to be recovering
- Lung cancer notifications not impacted
- Lower numbers of bladder and head and neck cancer notifications
- Head and neck cancer notifications appear to show some recovery. Clinicians advise this may be impacted by reduced dental consults

Socio-economic status







- Quintile 1= most disadvantaged
- Quintile 5= least disadvantaged

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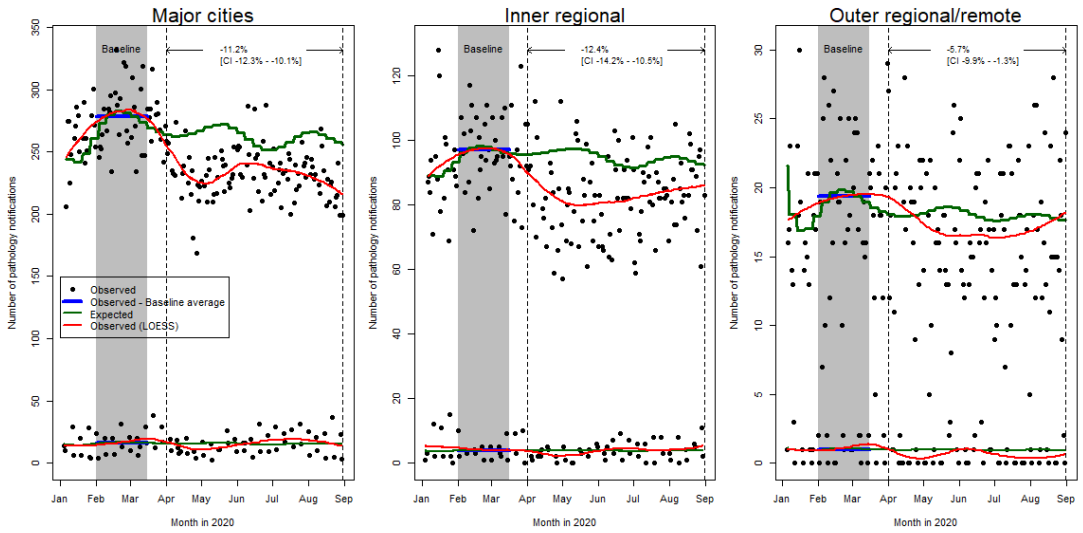
Victoria Overview



- **Notable decline in Melbourne which is not recovering**
- **Inner regional is showing some recovery**
- **Low numbers in outer regional/remote Victoria**

Conclusion

- COVID-19 has been associated with decline in cancer notifications
- This will equate to decline in detection of cancer diagnoses
- Impact on cancer stage migration at diagnosis not yet known
- Decline is most obvious in those aged >50 years, residing in inner Melbourne and in highest socioeconomic groups

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Recommendations

- Urgent public health information campaign to strongly encourage the community to see their primary care provider and be appropriately investigated
- Essential to plan for increase cancer workload over the next 12 months
- Evidenced based clinical guidelines to prioritise activity
- Category 1 cancer surgery must be maintained

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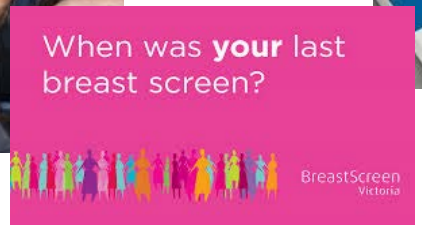
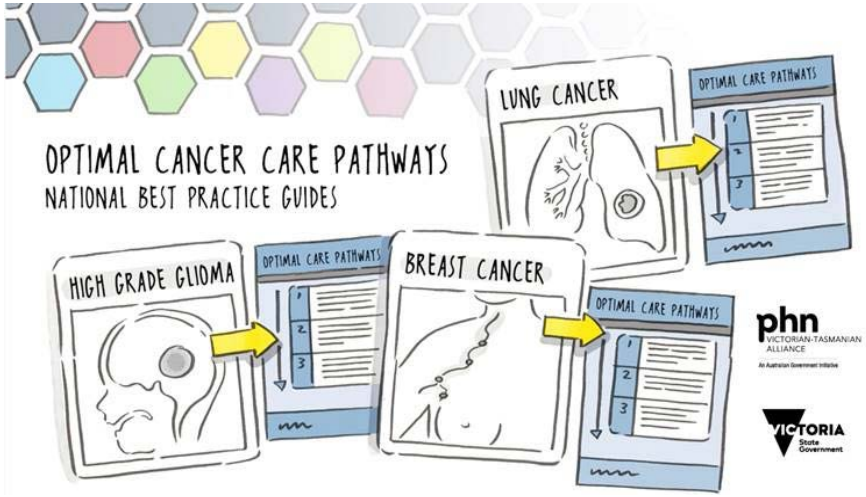
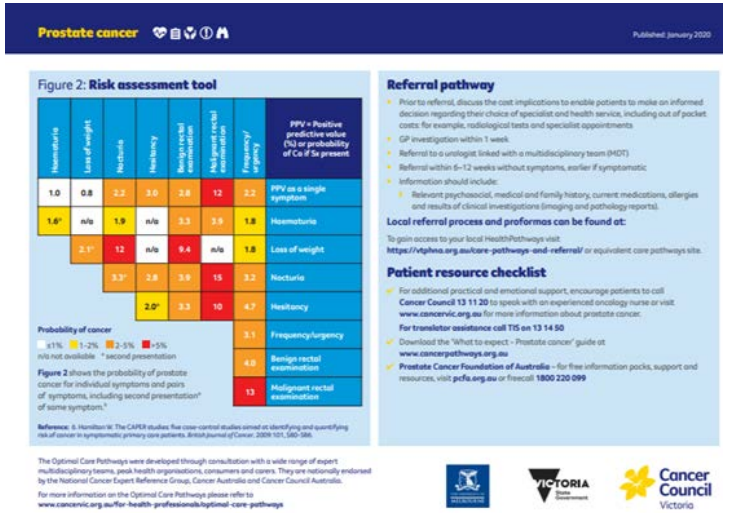
Actions underway



❖ Public Health Campaign



❖ Cancer Health Pathways



❖ I-PACED - Implementing pathways for early diagnosis

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COVID-19

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Dr Clare Looker

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Senior Medical Advisor

Health Protection Branch | Regulation, Health Protection and Emergency Management Division
Co-Clinical Director, Southern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service

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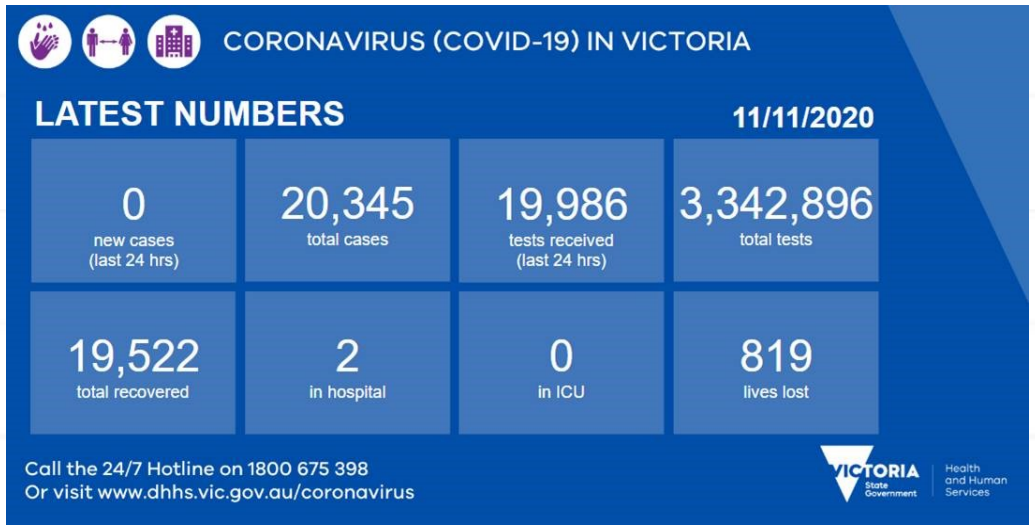
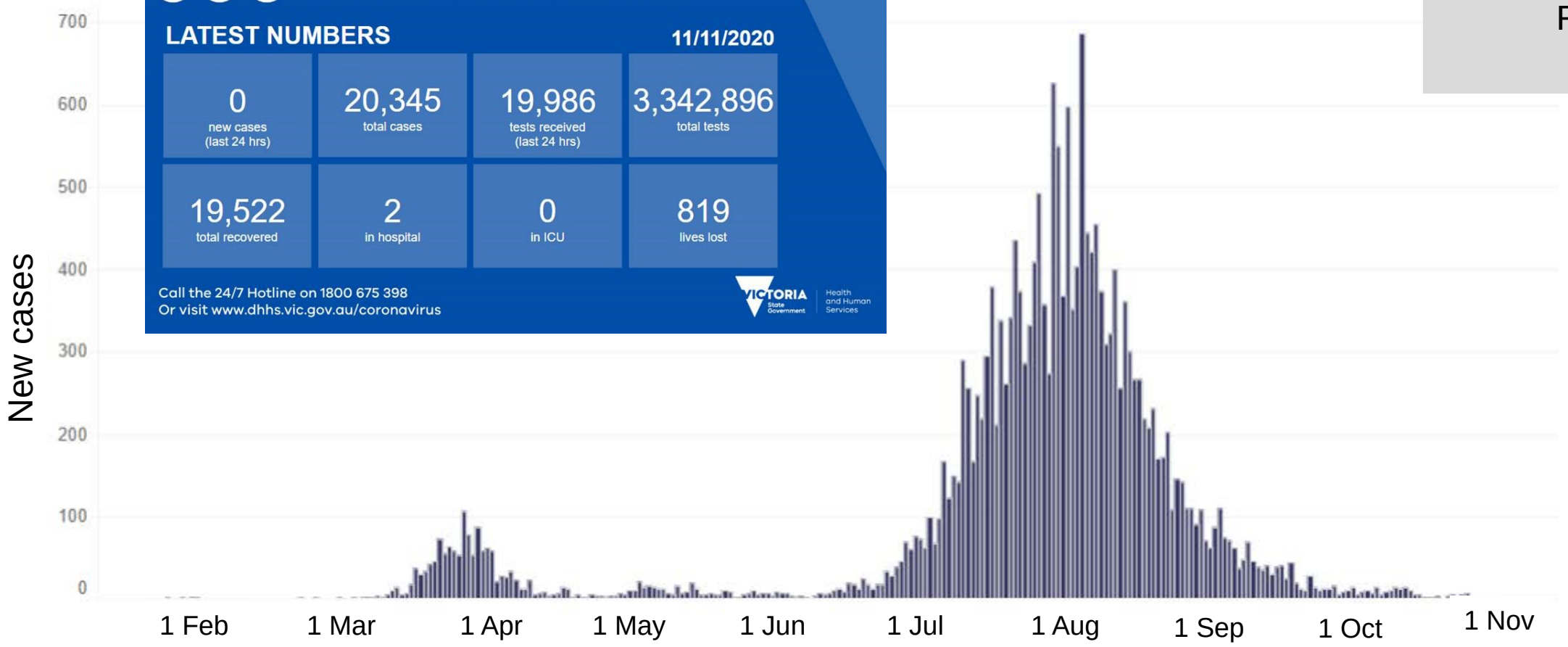
Situation in Victoria

14-day average
Metro: 0.3
Regional: 0

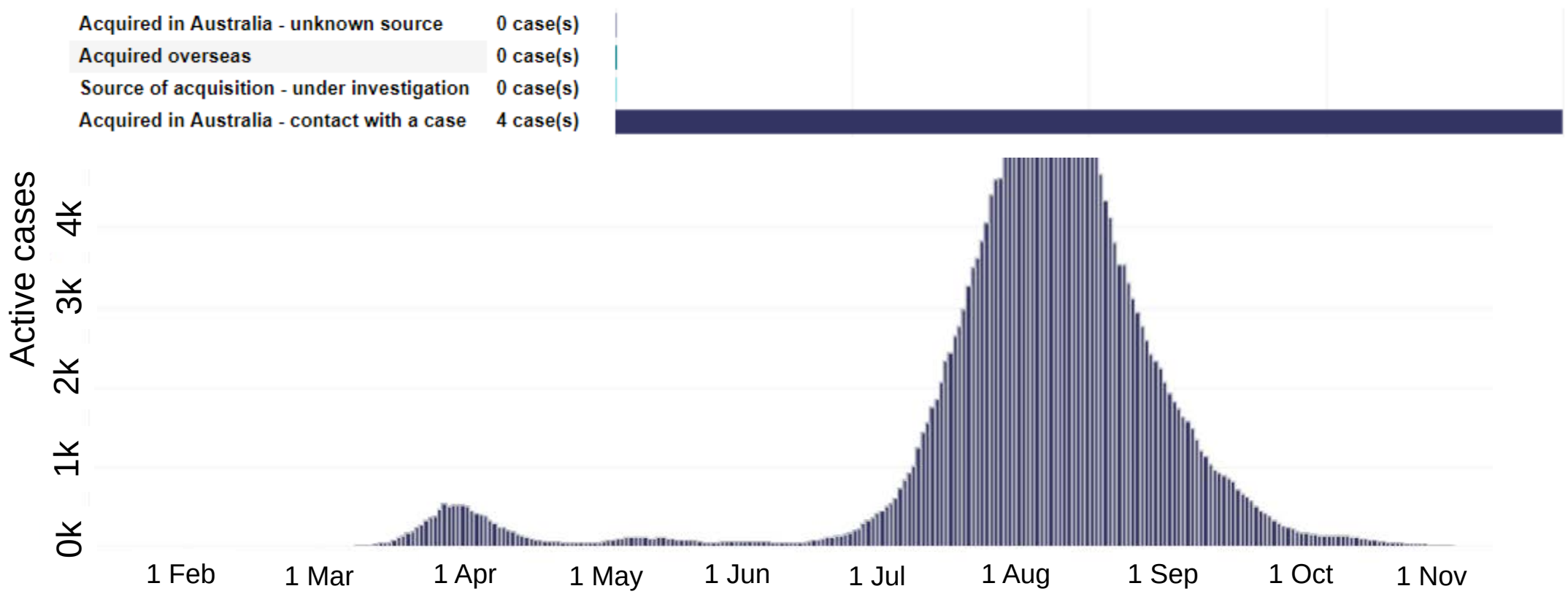
As at 11 November





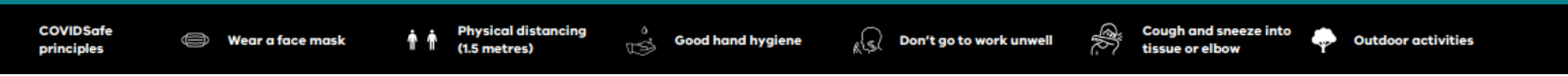
Transmission of COVID-19

Mode of transmission



Victoria’s roadmap for reopening

STAY SAFE
STAY OPEN



- Victoria’s roadmap for reopening provides safe, steady and sustainable steps for our path out of restrictions and into COVID Normal
- As restrictions ease it is more important than ever that we act every day to keep ourselves and others safe. These actions below can help protect you from coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Third Step restrictions apply across Victoria. The same restrictions apply in regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.
- Moving to the Last Step and then to COVID Normal will be require meeting 'trigger points’ based on case numbers

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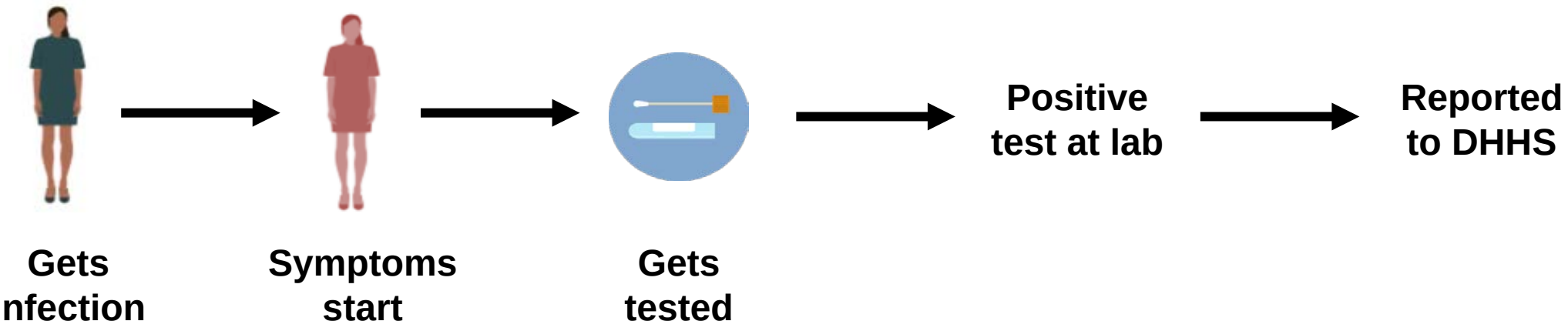
Finding coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Testing and contact tracing
  - For people who test positive – isolation stops further transmission.
  - For close contacts – quarantine stops transmission prior to symptoms starting.
  - People with infection are infectious usually **1 to 2 days <u>before</u> symptoms start**.
- Symptoms can start around **5 to 6 days** (up to 14 days) <u>after</u> infection.
- Delays can occur when seeking help and getting tested, at the lab, or in reporting.



A focus on Healthcare Worker Infection Prevention and Control

There has been active collaboration between partner organisations including the RACGP to collate infection prevention and control resources and determine a list of recommended resources.

Self-assessment checklists – Safe work

- **Worksafe Victoria checklist**
- **Safe Work Australia Checklist - COVID-19**

Infection prevention and control resources

- **RACGP infection prevention and control**
- **National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce**
- **Information for Victorian Health Services**
- **Business Victoria COVID-safe workplace**

Daily Attestation

It is recommended that primary care providers require all practice staff (clinical and non-clinical) to complete a daily attestation.

Staff should confirm that they are free from symptoms related to COVID-19 and have not had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the previous 14 days.

- Daily attestation reminds staff to consider their health and reinforces that workers must not attend a provider's premises for work unless they are safe to do so.
- Ensures continuity of general practice operations including supporting the community to feel that it is safe to return to face-to-face care.
- Mitigates the potential implications of a COVID-19 confirmed case affiliated with the practice.
- Can be integrated into service processes for recording presence at the workplace.

Thank you

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Roadmap to reopening
www.vic.gov.au/roadmap

For the latest information
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Information is available in 50+ community languages at
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translations

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