

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) RACGP NSW&ACT and NSW Health GP webinars

The most recent advice for health professionals in NSW (including General Practitioners) is available on the NSW Health website at:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-update.aspx>

A recording of the most recent RACGP NSW&ACT and NSW Health webinar is available at

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-webinar-ga.aspx>

PPE

- Please contact your Primary Health Network for access to masks.
- Infection Prevention and Control in primary care and community care:
http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/567988/Infection-Control-Primary-and-Community-Care-2019-nCoV.pdf
- Guidance on mask use:
http://cec.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/572875/Recommended-Guidance-on-Mask-Use-in-NSW.pdf
- Guidance on donning P2 masks:
http://cec.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566776/CEC-Principles-of-Fit-checking-chart-2020.pdf

Testing

- If taking samples yourself, use standard, contact and droplet transmission precautions when managing suspected cases and taking specimens: long sleeved gown, gloves, protective eyewear/face shield and a surgical mask.
- Patients whose illness is severe enough to consider hospital admission should be referred directly to the emergency department.
- There is no requirement to call the Public Health Unit before referring a patient for a test but they can provide additional advice or assistance if needed (1300 066 055).
- Current testing criteria:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-update.aspx>
- Private pathology labs available for testing:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-testing.aspx>
- COVID-19 clinics are available across the state:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-clinics.aspx>

Self-isolation

- The following people are required to self-isolate at home for 14 days (with links to factsheets):
 - Any one has returned from overseas
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/contacts-and-travellers.aspx>
 - Close contacts of confirmed cases
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/contacts-and-travellers.aspx>
 - Suspected cases
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-suspected.aspx>
 - Confirmed cases who do not require hospitalisation
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-confirmed.aspx>

Case and close contact definitions

- Please refer to the most recent CDNA guidelines for current definitions of cases and close contacts: <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm>
- At 25 March a close contact is defined as requiring:
 - greater than 15 minutes face-to-face contact in any setting with a confirmed case in the period extending from 24 hours before onset of symptoms in the confirmed case, or
 - sharing of a closed space with a confirmed case for a prolonged period (e.g. more than 2 hours) in the period extending from 24 hours before onset of symptoms in the confirmed case.

Further resources

- Commonwealth Department of Health are providing regular updates to GPS. Subscribe here: <https://health.govcms.gov.au/using-our-websites/subscriptions/subscribe-to-covid-19-updates-for-gps>
- There are a number of COVID-19 resources for health professionals on the NSW Health website (e.g. posters, factsheets, in-language information): <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/covid-19-resources.aspx>