

# COVID Positive Pathways

C+P Program update

16 March 2022



Department  
of Health

# Continuous enhancements have been made to the C+P Program as the pandemic response has changed

Further refinements are required to respond to current & any potential future variants

## What has changed since 2020?

- 1 The Omicron variant is more transmissible and milder than previous variants
- 2 High vaccination rates and continued focus on boosters
- 3 More safety nets and escalation pathways for individuals needing care, support or reassurance
- 4 Greater community engagement about what to do / how to manage illness at home
- 5 Less fear and concern about contracting COVID
- 6 The community have greater health literacy about COVID
- 7 Mandatory period of isolation for COVID+ individuals as reduced from 14 to 7 days

## Implications for the Community

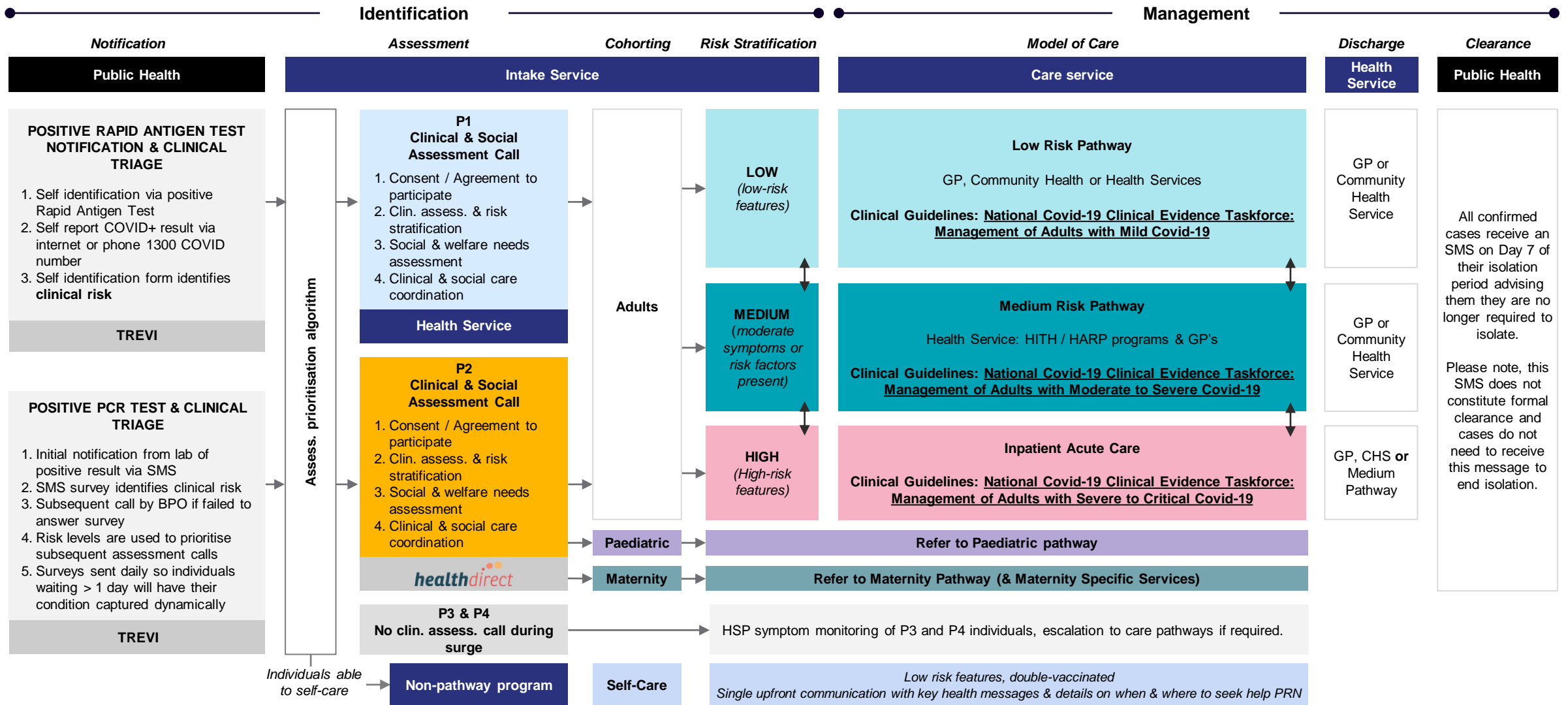
- 1 More individuals getting infected but fewer with severe symptoms
- 2 Greater population protection from severe disease
- 3 More individuals can self-care with the onus on the individual to seek help if / when needed
- 4 Individuals have greater access and awareness of the information and resources to support them manage illness at home
- 5 Getting COVID has become more common and de-stigmatised

## Changes to the C+P Program

- 1 Reduced demand on the health system by targeting resources to those most in need
- 2 Transition more cohorts towards self initiated care using data to inform of changes to risk stratification matrix.
- 3 Clear safety nets and escalation pathways communicated to the community
- 4 Pending social care model refinement to connect those requiring social support to existing community health programs

# COVID Positive Care Pathways (Adults)

Updated version to reflect new Omicron Variant



# Public messaging (for consumers and clinicians)

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | <b>Managing COVID at Home COVID Positive Pathways</b> | <p>Managing COVID at Home and COVID Positive Pathways websites recently updated. This included review and advice from GPs in the C+P Clinical Working Group. One key update was the addition of advice on (federal) GPRCs as a care option for people on the self-care pathway with worsening symptoms (if their own GP was unavailable, or they do not have a GP).</p> <p><a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/managing-covid-19-home">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/managing-covid-19-home</a><br/> <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covid-positive-pathways">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covid-positive-pathways</a></p> |
| 2 | <b>RCH COVID Factsheet</b>                            | <p>RCH COVID Factsheet now under review to align with the messaging in Managing COVID at Home.</p> <p><a href="https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Coronavirus_COVID-19/">https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Coronavirus_COVID-19/</a></p>   |
| 3 | <b>Managing COVID at Home When Pregnant</b>           | <p>Managing COVID at Home When Pregnant website content developed but not yet published.</p>  |
| 4 | <b>GP FAQ</b>   | <p>GP FAQ in development to provide information on the program and provide contact details for linking in with HSPs.</p>  |
| 5 | <b>COVID+ Pathway resources</b>                       | <p>Clinician C+P department resources can be found under the C+P tab here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/clinical-guidance-and-resources-covid-19">https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/clinical-guidance-and-resources-covid-19</a></p>   |

# GP Notification Pilot



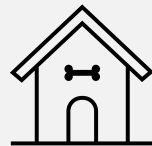
## Overview

- GP Notification **Pilot** commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- GP notifications are running across the current health services of the NE HSP: Austin, Eastern, Northern, and St Vincent's.
- Healthdirect have assessed **8,949** individuals with COVID-19 in the above services, resulting in a 'medium' pathway (hospital) allocation and therefore a GP notification is sent to the GP for information only.
- **5,663** GP notifications have been sent as of 14/3/22 (**63%**).
- There is still a high percentage of the community who would like their GPs to be informed of their status, however notifications fail due to GP's being uncontactable in the secure messaging platform.



## Evaluation for GP Notification Pilot

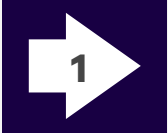
- Evaluation on benefit analysis of Healthdirect GP pilot underway.
- The evaluation will inform decisions on the direction of the notification process following the pilot.
- Continuing to work through IT issues and updating of address books within the secure messaging system to increase contact with GP's.




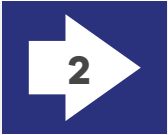
## Take-home messages

- Please ensure your details are up to date on the secure messaging platforms (Argus, Healthlink, Referral Net)
- If you are not registered for secure messaging, you can contact you local PHN for support



# System readiness to support future variants

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COVID Monitor regional rollout to support intake assessments within regional health services which includes scalability of workforce to support future variants


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The National COVID Helpline is available for Victorian's to get further advice and assessment if required


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Individuals able to register a positive Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) as an entry point into the Covid Positive Pathways Program


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Expansion of self-care criteria to enable more individuals to move into self-initiated care and engage their GP, with clear information provided for where to seek care if concerned


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Integrated C+P data analytics on movement/escalations of individuals across the care pathways to confidently refine clinical stratifications to allocate appropriate care in the appropriate setting


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Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) – ongoing rollout supporting hospital, AV & system diversion


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Work underway for new oral antiviral treatments to be incorporated into the C+P program



# Questions and discussion

# Thank You



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