Update on GP respiratory clinics

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Overview of GP respiratory clinics across Victoria

▶ **25 Commonwealth** funded GP respiratory clinics have been operating since 2020

▶ **20 new state GP respiratory clinics** are being stood up in priority LGAs in metropolitan Melbourne (being commissioned by Primary Health Networks)

  ➢ **18 clinics are currently operational**, with the remaining 2 expected to open by the end of March

▶ **8 additional state GP respiratory clinics** are being stood up across Victoria

▶ **In total there will be 53 GP respiratory clinics** across the state providing respiratory assessments and care

Key features of state funded GP respiratory clinics

GP respiratory clinics:

► **See people of all ages (including children)** with **low acuity respiratory symptoms**

► Provide **face to face respiratory assessments**, including testing for COVID-19

► **Are open extended hours** – after hours and on weekends

► Staffed by **GPs and nurses**

► Available to those with or without a Medicare card, at **no cost to the patient**

► Provide accessible services via **pre-booked appointment** (phone or online booking system) and **'walk ins'**

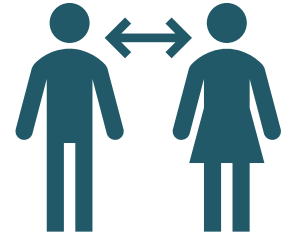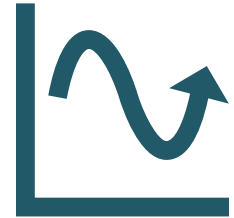# GP respiratory clinics - key benefits for GPs and patients

✓ **Provides GPs with a referral option** for patients who require **face to face** respiratory assessments if their practice is unable to do so.

✓ **Provides short term care for a range of respiratory conditions**, with **patients referred back to their existing GP** or supported to find a new GP if they don't have one.

✓ Provides an **alternative pathway** other than an emergency department for people with low acuity conditions.

✓ **Provides respiratory assessments** and **not** just COVID testing.

✓ Patients who test positive for COVID-19 are **supported to access the COVID Positive Pathway program.** (Commonwealth funded clinics provide care for COVID patients)

GP respiratory clinics will play a key role as winter approaches and number of respiratory conditions in the community increases

Utilisation of state GP respiratory clinics to date

► Data is being collected to **monitor performance and evaluate the impact of the clinics**

  ► **Over 21,000 patient consultations** have occurred (up to end of Feb)

  ► Saw a **spike in numbers in early-mid January**

  ► **Numbers likely to increase again** as winter approaches

► Anecdotal evidence is showing;

  ► Patients welcome the option of seeing a GP **face to face** when they have respiratory symptoms

  ► Ease and availability of access is a key benefit – particularly in the **after hours** period

Promotion of GP respiratory clinics

- ▶ The department and PHNs are working to **promote community and sector awareness** of the GP respiratory clinics

- ▶ Community members are receiving clear information on the **purpose of the clinics,** including through posters and social media

- ▶ Targeted promotion and engagement is being undertaken to ensure **priority populations** (e.g. culturally and linguistically diverse populations) are reached

- ▶ **Individual GP respiratory clinics** are also undertaking their own **promotion and engagement**

Example poster

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State GP respiratory clinics – locations

	LGA	Suburb	GP respiratory clinic name		LGA	Suburb	GP respiratory clinic name
1	Casey	Cranbourne	Cranbourne Respiratory Clinic	11	Darebin	East Reservoir	East Reservoir Respiratory Clinic
2	Monash	Glen Waverley	Monash Respiratory Clinic	12	Greater Dandenong	Dandenong	Dandenong Respiratory Clinic
3	Brimbank	Sunshine	Sunshine Respiratory Clinic	13	Hume	Sunbury	Sunbury Respiratory Clinic
4	Cardinia	Officer	Officer Respiratory Clinic	14	Melbourne	West Melbourne	West Melbourne Respiratory Clinic
5	Kingston	Mentone	Mentone Respiratory Clinic	15	Maribyrnong	West Footscray	West Footscray Respiratory Clinic
6	Moonee Valley	Ascot Vale	Ascot Vale Respiratory Clinic	16	Wyndham	Werribee	Wyndham Respiratory Clinic
7	Hume	Broadmeadows	Broadmeadows Respiratory Clinic	17	Boroondara	Ashburton	Ashburton Respiratory Clinic
8	Brimbank	Derrimut	Derrimut Respiratory Clinic	18	Banyule	Heidelberg	Banyule Respiratory Clinic
9	Casey	Narre Warren South	Casey Respiratory Clinic	19	Moreland	TBC	TBC
10	Whittlesea	Mill Park	Mill Park Respiratory Clinic	20	Melton	TBC	TBC

Map and links to all GP respiratory clinics: https://vtphna.org.au/our-work/best-practice-prevention-management-and-support/gp-respiratory-clinics/

Additional eight GP respiratory clinics

► Funding for **8 additional GP respiratory clinics across Victoria** was announced in February 2022

► Clinics are proposed in the following areas;

Eastern Melbourne PHN	North Western Melbourne PHN	South Eastern Melbourne PHN	Murray PHN	Western Victoria PHN
Whitehorse	Wyndham	Frankston	Mildura	Warrnambool
Yarra Ranges		Glen Eira		
		Mornington Peninsula		

► Clinics will be **established in the coming months via an EOI process coordinated by PHNs**

Links to resources

- List and map of GP respiratory clinics https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/gp-respiratory-clinics-and-hospital-respiratory-clinics-covid-19 and https://vtphna.org.au/our-work/best-practice-prevention-management-and-support/gp-respiratory-clinics/

- Find your nearest COVID-19 testing site https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19

- Murray PHN Infection Prevention Helpline Service available for general practice
  Call 1800 312 968 9am–5pm weekdays, or https://www.murrayphn.org.au/ipc/

- Information and resources to support GPs https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/primary-care-guidance-for-the-response-to-covid-19-risks#minimising-exposure-to-covid-19-in-primary-care-settings

- Links to Victoria COVID-19 updates https://www.racgp.org.au/coronavirus/vic

- Victorian HealthPathways resources https://vtphna.org.au/carepathways/ / HealthPathways Melbourne

Questions and discussion