



COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Information from the SA Health GP Liaison

OFFICIAL

14 October 2020

Good evening everyone. There are currently six active cases of COVID-19 in South Australia. Check out the [dashboard](#) for further details. Thank you for your ongoing support and care to your patients. Apologies it's quite a long update! Any issues, email me at Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au

COVID-19 testing update

More than 500,000 COVID-19 tests have been undertaken in South Australia to date. Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, should be tested. Don't just rest and forget the test!! Find more information and testing locations at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidtesting. Please keep referring your patients to one of the many testing centres across the state.

CSIRO article

Interesting journal article published over the weekend on survival rates of SARS-CoV-2 at different temperatures, with viable virus isolated for up to 28 days at 20 °C from common surfaces such as glass, stainless steel and both paper and polymer banknotes. Conversely, infectious virus survived less than 24 h at 40 °C on some surfaces. Check out the scientific article [here](#).

New COVID-19 cases in SA

14/10 - Three women aged in their 20s, 30s and 60s, who have all recently returned overseas, have tested positive to COVID-19. All three travelled on the same flight and returned a positive result in their day one tests in hotel quarantine.

13/10 - A woman in her 20s who recently returned from overseas has tested positive to COVID-19. She has been in a medi-hotel since her arrival and there is no public health risk. The result represents an old infection, however, the case will be added to our state tally.

11/10 - There were two new COVID-19 cases in South Australia recorded. Both cases, a man in his 30s and a man in his 50s, recently returned from overseas and tested positive in quarantine. Both cases have been in a medi-hotel since their arrival and there is no public health risk. The pair tested positive on their day one test and will remain in isolation.

9/10 - A man in his 20s who recently returned from overseas has tested positive while in quarantine. He has been in a medi-hotel since his arrival and is not considered infectious as this represents an old infection. As this is his

first COVID-19 test, his positive result has been added to our state tally. A woman in her 40s who recently returned from overseas has also tested positive to COVID-19. As this was a recorded case overseas, this represents an old infection and will not count towards our state tally.

NSW Update

The situation in NSW continues to be monitored on a daily basis. There are no restrictions in place between SA and NSW. Of note NSW has had 11 new cases reported in the last 24 hours, with nine of the new cases reported today are linked to the Lakemba GP cluster, which now has 12 cases in total. All nine cases are household or other contacts of known cases, including three who attended the clinic. Contact tracing and investigations into the source of the cluster continue in NSW.

Infection Control (IC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donning and Doffing Training

SA Health's Infection Control Service has uploaded a video of a practical session on PPE and the *Training Tool for the Correct Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Residential Aged Care Facilities*. The training tool and video are available at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidagedcare. This training supplements, the mandatory Understanding COVID-19 for Aged Care Workers online training module, which is required to be completed by all employees and contractors who provide nursing care or personal care to residents in a residential aged care facility.

Specialist Outpatient Services

As many of you know, the Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) is working to redesign Specialist Outpatient Services across SA Health. This state-wide redesign work is being undertaken with the guidance of Local Health Networks and GP liaisons from the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN), Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN) and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN), and GP representatives from special interests in Paediatrics, Migrant Health, Aboriginal Health and Rural Health.

The OP Redesign work is based on the following key principles:

- Improved access to care and quality clinical outcomes by reducing time spent on waiting lists for treatment, in accordance with clinically recommended timeframes.
- Improved transparency for referrers and patients to support informed decision making.
- Embracing innovation and new technology to support contemporary care delivery and access, particularly for those patients living in country and regional settings.
- Improve data access and data quality to support clinical, operational and strategic decision making.

Improving the referral process for both GPs and hospital clinicians is a key priority for the OP Redesign work. There are several major projects underway to improve the referral processes including the establishment of standardised Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) for SA Health OP services, and electronic referrals (E-referrals).

Establishing standardised state-wide CPC will assist GPs in accessing information related to the minimum required referral information and provide information related to the expected waiting times for a broad range of clinical conditions. [Clinical Prioritisation Criteria](#) have been implemented with great success in many states across Australia. To support this work Clinical Advisory Groups (CAG) for clinical specialties will be established, with high levels of engagement from GP representatives key to its success. The clinical specialties with the highest numbers of people waiting will be targeted including Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Gastroenterology, Urology and Ear, Nose and Throat Services.

Standardised referral criteria and pathways will also help with the implementation of the long awaited electronic referral system, which is currently being explored. E-referrals will assist in streamlining the information flows between general practice and hospitals and will avoid the use of antiquated technology such as faxes. The DHW is committed to improving outpatients and needs continued support of the GP community to help shape a better version of normal for the future.

South Australian COVID-19 Cases

- 3 new cases today
- 6 active COVID-19 cases
- 2,857 tests yesterday
- 504,958 tests in total
- 479 confirmed cases in total
- 469 people have recovered from COVID-19
- 4 COVID-19 related deaths

Dr Emily Kirkpatrick

BMed MPH MMed DCH GCHPE CHIA MAICD FRACGP

Deputy Chief Public Health Officer

SA Health Medical Advisor for Primary Care / COVID-19 GP Liaison

Department for Health and Wellbeing

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019



Government of South Australia
SA Health

OFFICIAL