

COVID-19 PRIMARY CARE UPDATE

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OFFICIAL

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Access to purchase PPE via SA Health

SA Health is able to assist GPs and ACCHOs with access to purchase PPE at cost price, including N95/PFs, where they are unable to obtain supplies of these critical items via usual commercial sources. For further information please contact the SA Health Procurement Team via phone 08 8425 9200 or email HealthPSCMSCOCustomerService@sa.gov.au.

Clarification of the COVID exposures in primary and community health care settings risk matrix

Fit checking vs fit testing

Fit checking of PFRs is required for exposure assessment. Fit testing is recommended but not required to determine if someone meets the close contact criteria.

Definition of vaccinated and unvaccinated contact

Vaccinated/Unvaccinated contact refers to the person who has been exposed (ie in the primary care matrix this is referring to the staff member or patient who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19). Case refers to the person who has tested positive for COVID-19. The vaccination status of the person who already has COVID-19 is irrelevant to the exposure assessment process and will not impact on quarantine and testing requirement for someone who has had contact with the person with COVID-19.

Length of wear for PFRs: Advice from the SA Health COVID-19 Infection Control Services Team

- The current advice as per the Australian Government Department of Health ICEG [The use of face masks and respirators in the context of COVID-19](#) fact sheet states that you can use a PFR continuously for a single session of care. If removed e.g. for a meal break or drink, it should be discarded and replaced with a new one. A correctly fitted PFR (i.e. with adequate face-seal), often becomes uncomfortable with prolonged use. Prolonged use can cause headache, thermal stress, painful pressure on the bridge of the nose and/or adverse respiratory and dermatological effects. If any of these occur the wearer is more likely to unconsciously loosen or adjust it and risk contaminating their hands and face or be noncompliant with its use.
- COVID-19 ICS Team also advises that a mask/PFR should also be changed if it becomes soiled, moist or damaged.
- For more information on infection control and PPE visit the [SA Health website](#).

Clarification on eye protection

Acceptable eye protection includes face shields, closely fitted wrap-around goggles or safety glasses. Prescription glasses that do not provide side protection from droplets are not considered eye protection

ScriptCheckSA

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Register now at www.scriptcheck.sa.gov.au or for more information please email Health.RTPM@sa.gov.au.

South Australia COVID-19 Update

- 2 new cases today
- 0 people in hospital
- 5 active COVID-19 cases
- 928 confirmed cases in total
- 917 people have recovered from COVID-19
- 2,537,335 total vaccine doses administered
- 88.6% received first dose (16+)
- 79.5% received second dose (16+)
- 7,222 tests yesterday
- 4 COVID-19 related deaths

Please forward this update to any colleagues who may not have received it and contact us at Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au to be added to our mailing list or with any other enquiries.

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