

# COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Information from the SA Health GP Liaison

4 September 2020

Good evening everyone. No active cases currently in SA!! But... we are still seeing cases in Eastern Australia. Despite the borders in place, it's important not to become complacent. Please continue to test symptomatic individuals and refer for testing if you aren't equipped at your practice. Thank you for your ongoing support and care to your patients. Any issues, email me at [Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au)

## Update to COVID-19 restrictions

From Saturday 5 September, the maximum number of people able to attend a wedding or funeral will increase to 150 people. Consumption of food and alcohol can resume for people seated at a bar. However, food preparation and production cannot occur at the same bar. More information, including a new Public Activities Direction, will be available on the [www.covid-19.sa.gov.au](http://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au) website shortly.

**Update to COVID-19 restrictions in SA**  
From midnight 4 September

- Weddings & funerals** ▶ Weddings and funerals can have up to 150 people
- Hospitality** ▶ People can eat and drink while seated at a bar provided no food preparation or production occurs at or near the bar (i.e. the bar is not a kitchen bar)
- Adelaide Oval AFL crowds** ▶ AFL football crowds can be up to 15,000 with gradual increases to crowds, up to 25,000 (50% capacity), phased in over the coming weeks pending health advice at the time.
- Work from home** ▶ Working from home is no longer necessary, provided the company you work for has measures in place to protect the health of its workforce

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## Testing facility update

The COVID-19 drive-through testing facility at Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre will be closed on Saturday 5 September due to planned maintenance by SA Power Networks. There are a range of metropolitan and regional testing options available, including the respiratory clinics. Find more information about testing options at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidtesting](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidtesting).

### **Exemptions via Portal**

People seeking essential traveller status for compassionate grounds, providing health services, or urgent medical, dental or health treatment require written approval from SA Health before submitting a Cross Border Travel application. The Health Exemption application can now be completed online. More information, including updated frequently asked questions, can be found at [www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions](http://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions)

### **PPE for GPs when Swabbing Infection Control SA Health Advice**

The previous advice for primary care has not changed – minimum mask PPE is a surgical mask for taking a COVID swab as per the National recommendations. Noting these are considered a minimum and clinicians can and do undertake a risk assessment re use of PFRs.

The use of PFRs in primary health can be problematic as GPs have limited access to fit testing, and generally can only perform a fit check. A fit checked PFR may offer GPs a greater sense of protection than a surgical mask that may not always fit as closely to the face. GPs electing to wear PFRs should also undergo training in the correct use to ensure they know how to perform a fit check each time they don a P2/N95 and also how to avoid self-contamination when doffing. PFRs have been recommended for COVID and Respiratory clinics and pharmacy clinics based on discussion relating to high patient volumes, walk-in / drive up nature of presentations and limited pre swabbing clinical assessment opportunities.

### **Dr Emily Kirkpatrick**

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Department for Health and Wellbeing

[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/  
COVID2019](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019)



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