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Coronavirus COVID-19 daily update

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This Chief Health Officer update is intended to provide clinicians and the Victorian public with information about the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Victoria as well as relevant public health response activities in Victoria. Chief Health Officer Alerts will continue to be issued when there are changes to the public health advice related to COVID-19.

24/04/2020

What's new?

Developments in the outbreak

- As of 24 April 2020, the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Victoria is 1,343, an increase of 6 since yesterday.
- 27 people are in hospital, including 11 people in intensive care. 16 people have died.
- 135 cases have an unknown source of infection, unchanged since yesterday and 1,254 people have recovered. To date, more than 96,000 Victorians have been tested.
- Of the total 1,343 cases, there have been 1,062 in metropolitan Melbourne and 243 in regional Victoria. A number of cases remain under investigation.
- There have been 163 confirmed cases in healthcare workers, unchanged since yesterday, across at least 7 hospitals and 1 radiology clinic.
- A total of 46 cases are reported in people in mandatory hotel quarantine which is an increase of 1 since yesterday.
- The total number of cases in Australia is currently 6,667.
- Up-to-date [epidemiological data](#)  is available on our website.

Current advice to clinicians

- Advice remains the same that it is not necessary for members of the public to wear face masks for protection against COVID-19.
- Victoria's public and private hospitals will begin doing more elective surgeries from next week.
- Category 2 and some category 3 elective surgeries will gradually resume from 27 April 2020.
- Surgeries that will be allowed include IVF procedures, post-cancer reconstruction procedures, eye procedures and cataracts, endoscopy and colonoscopy procedures, some dental procedures, joint replacements including knee, hip and shoulder and screening programs for cancer and other diseases. It also includes all procedures for children under the age of 18.
- The Department of Health and Human Services is working with health services and staff in both the private and public systems to assess their surgical capacity and ability to increase procedures, when it is safe to do so.
- Upon reopening, priority will be given to the patients of highest need, based on surgical advice of the hospital where the surgery is scheduled. Elective surgery patients should not call their hospitals but should wait until the hospital notifies them.

Key messages for the community

- The rules are clear - Stay home. Protect the health system. Save lives.
- There are only four reasons to leave home:
 - shopping for what you need - food and essential supplies
 - medical, care or compassionate needs
 - exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements
 - work and study if you can't work or learn remotely.

Current directions arising from the declared state of emergency

The State of Emergency in Victoria has been extended until midnight 11 May 2020.

The current directions remain in place and include: staying at home, restrictions on particular activities, detention, restrictions on airports and cruise ships, aged care, hospitals and isolation for people diagnosed with COVID-19

More information viewed at the department's [website](#). The site also contains a page of [frequently asked questions](#) providing further guidance on the directions.

More information

Clinical information

[Health services and general practice - coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

Consumer information

[About Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - information for the general public](#)

[World Health Organization - health topic - Coronavirus](#) 

[Smartraveller website](#) 

Contacts

Medical practitioners needing clinical information or to notify suspected or confirmed cases can contact the Department of Health and Human Services Communicable Diseases Section on 1300 651 160 (24 hours).

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The department acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and acknowledges and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

The department is committed to safe and inclusive work places, policies and services for people of LGBTIQ communities and their families.

