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Coronavirus COVID-19 daily update - 27 April 2020

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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.

27/04/2020

What's new?

Developments in the outbreak

- Victorians have today been encouraged to get tested for coronavirus, even if they only have mild symptoms.
- By increasing testing for coronavirus and widening the testing criteria, we can better track the spread of this virus. This will give more information to inform the timing of any potential easing of restrictions once the State of Emergency ends on May 11.
- The clinical criteria for testing have been expanded as outlined below.
- As of 27 April 2020, the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Victoria is 1,349, with 1 new case diagnosed yesterday and 1 reclassified to NSW.
- 27 people are in hospital, including 15 people in intensive care. 17 people have died.
- 138 cases have an unknown source of infection, an increase of 1 since yesterday and 1,280 people have recovered. To date, more than 101,000 tests have been conducted in Victoria.

- Of the total 1,349 cases, there have been 1,095 in metropolitan Melbourne and 216 in regional Victoria. A number of cases remain under investigation.
- There have been 165 confirmed cases in healthcare workers, unchanged since yesterday, across at least 7 hospitals and 1 radiology clinic.
- A total of 47 cases are reported in people in mandatory hotel quarantine, an increase of 1 since yesterday.
- The total number of cases in Australia is currently 6,711.
- 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 today.
- 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

- If you have any of the symptoms of coronavirus, you should seek medical advice and get tested. To get further advice, call your GP or the 24-hour coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398.
- 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.



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