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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.

16/06/2020

What's new?

Developments in the outbreak

- As of 16 June 2020, the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Victoria is 1,741, an increase of nine since yesterday's report.
- Nine new cases have been reported. Three cases are linked to two outbreaks, two case were detected in hotel quarantine, one case identified through routine testing, and three cases are under investigation.
- 184 cases have been acquired in Victoria where the source of infection is unknown.
- Six people are in hospital, including two patients in intensive care. 19 people have died. 1,664 people have recovered.
- Of the total 1,741 cases, there have been 1,451 in metropolitan Melbourne and 239 in regional Victoria. Several cases remain under investigation.
- More than 599,000 test results have been received by the department since 1 January 2020.
- Up-to-date [epidemiological data](#) is available on our website.

Current advice to clinicians

- Practitioners are encouraged to test any patients who meet the clinical criteria below:
Fever OR chills in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that explains the clinical presentation*
OR
Acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose or anosmia)

*Note: In addition, testing is recommended for people with new onset of other clinical symptoms consistent with COVID-19** AND who are close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19; who have returned from overseas in the past 14 days; or who are healthcare or aged care workers.*

**Clinical discretion applies including consideration of the potential for co-infection (e.g. concurrent infection with SARS-CoV-2 and influenza)*

***headache, myalgia, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea.*

- If referring your patients for COVID-19 testing, a list of testing locations can be found on the [getting tested for coronavirus page](#).
- Any coronavirus test reported by a laboratory as having detected SARS-CoV-2 on PCR will be treated as positive for the purposes of public health actions, regardless of repeat testing of the sample. It is not appropriate to advise a patient that a test is a false positive without prior consultation with the department. Current processing time for COVID-19 tests is one to three days.
- People who have been tested at a metropolitan retail testing site can call the dedicated Onsite Doctor Results Hotline on (03) 8669 0255 if they have been waiting more than five days for results. This hotline will operate from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm whilst the mobile testing sites continue to be operating.
- As the prevalence of COVID-19 remains low, practitioners are encouraged to consider testing for other infectious diseases as warranted by the patient's clinical presentation and history, including travel history. Test for influenza in patients presenting with compatible respiratory symptoms and request a stool culture in patients presenting with gastrointestinal symptoms.

Key messages for the community

- Maintain physical distance from others and avoid crowds, wash your hands regularly and cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, stay home and get tested if you're unwell.
- Victoria's State of Emergency has been extended to 11.59pm on 21 June 2020, but some restrictions have been eased.
- The restrictions are being cautiously eased to reduce the risk of a second wave of coronavirus cases. The also means the number of people who can gather or participate in an activity is being increased slowly.
- As restrictions ease, it remains important that if you can work from home, you should do so.
- More information on current restrictions and how to stay safe can be viewed at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) page](#).

More information

Clinical information

[Latest coronavirus information for Victorian health services and general practice](#)

Consumer information

[Victoria's current restrictions](#)

[Latest coronavirus information from the World Health Organization](#)

[Latest travel advice from Smartraveller](#)

Contacts

Medical practitioners needing clinical information or to notify 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.

