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 coronavirus (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 coronavirus (COVID-19) .

05/07/2020

What's new?

- As of 5 July 2020, the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Victoria is 2,536, a net increase of 67 since yesterday's report.

- 74 new cases have been reported. Of the new cases, 16 are linked to outbreaks, 4 were identified through routine testing and 53 remain under investigation. One new case has been detected in a returned traveller in hotel quarantine.

- 401 cases have been acquired in Australia where the source of infection is unknown.

- 26 people are in hospital, including three patients in intensive care. 20 people have died, no increase since yesterday's report. 1,971 people have recovered.

- Of the total 2,536 cases, there have been 2,189 in metropolitan Melbourne and 258 in regional Victoria. Several cases remain under investigation.

- More than 928,000 test results have been received by the department since 1 January 2020.

- Further details can be found in today's coronavirus (COVID-19) media release.

- Up-to-date epidemiological data is available on our website .

Restricted postcodes

Given the increasing numbers of coronavirus (COVID-19) in particular locations and the heightened risk of transmission, additional restrictions have come into effect in certain postcodes.

Residents of any of these restricted postcodes must follow Stay at Home Directions. There are four reasons that these residents can leave home:

- shopping for food or other essential items

- work or study, if they cannot work or study from home

- to provide care giving, for compassionate reasons or seek medical treatment

- for exercise (outdoor exercise only, with only one other person or members of their household).

There are now 12 restricted postcodes:

- 3012 – includes: Brooklyn, Kingsville, Maidstone, Tottenham, West Footscray

- 3021 – includes: Albanvale, Kealba, Kings Park, St Albans

- 3031 – includes: Kensington, Flemington

- 3032 – includes: Ascot Vale, Highpoint City, Maribyrnong, Travancore

- 3038 – includes: Keilor Downs, Keilor Lodge, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens

- 3042 – includes: Airport West, Keilor Park, Niddrie, Niddrie North

- 3046 – includes: Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park

- 3047 – includes: Broadmeadows, Dallas, Jacana

- 3051 – includes: North Melbourne, Hotham Hill

- 3055 – includes: Brunswick South, Brunswick West, Moonee Vale, Moreland West

- 3060 – includes: Fawkner

- 3064 – includes: Craigieburn, Donnybrook, Mickleham, Roxburgh Park, Kalkallo.

The restrictions of the 3031 and 3051 postcodes include the closure of nine public housing towers in response to an outbreak across multiple households. Due to the risk of rapid virus spread within the close confines and shared community spaces within these apartment blocks, additional restrictions have been placed and residents will be unable to leave their homes for at least five days. Restrictions will be lifted when the Victorian Government has successfully tested and tracked this virus.

If you live in one of these suburbs you must follow Stay at Home Directions.

More information is available on the Restrictions: restricted postcodes page.

Queries can be made to the Department of Health and Human Services coronavirus hotline: 1800 675 398.

Extra support for Flemington and North Melbourne Housing Estates

- Royal Melbourne Hospital staff are onsite to ensure that every resident in the nine towers can get tested.

- The Inner North COVID Response Line has been activated to provide information and support to the residents of the locked down postcodes and community housing tours. Further information is available on 1800 961 054 with an interpreter service available on 131 450.

- Recognising the financial burden lockdown will place on many residents, a $750 hardship payment will be provided to affected households and $5,000 grants to affected businesses.

- The Department of Health and Human Services will also provide two weeks of rent relief for all tenants in locked down estates.

- Translators are onsite and will be doorknocking to help explain the directions and understand the individual assistance tenants might need.

- The Community Connector program will be delivered in partnership with the Red Cross, local government and other organisations linking Victorians experiencing loneliness or social disconnection with a friendly ear and lending a hand to get online, arrange for pet care or connect to local supports.

- The Victorian Government will continue providing one-off $1,500 payments to support workers who are required to self-isolate because they are diagnosed with coronavirus (COVID-19) or they are a close contact of a confirmed case but can't rely on sick leave when missing work.

Current advice to clinicians

- Practitioners should 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, anosmia or loss of smell or loss of taste)

  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 coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, a list of testing locations can be found on the getting tested for coronavirus page.

- Any coronavirus (COVID-19) 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. Current processing time for coronavirus (COVID-19) tests is one to three days.

- Practitioners are encouraged to also 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

- Residents of the priority suburbs and in the restricted postcodes will receive free testing – with or without symptoms. For more information go to the [Response to outbreaks page](#).

- People who are asymptomatic and awaiting test results do not need to self-isolate. But if people feel unwell or have any of the coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms they should self-isolate.

- Residents of these suburbs should not seek asymptomatic testing from their general practitioner, rather visit a site listed on our [Getting tested webpage](#).

- If you feel unwell with any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, you should stay home and get tested. If you have any fever, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, and loss of sense of smell or taste – stay home, don't go in to work and don't visit friends and family. Get tested and stay at home until you get the result. [Go to the DHHS testing map for locations](#).

- From 28 June 2020, all returned travellers in hotel quarantine must get tested for coronavirus on day 11 to be eligible for release after 14 days. Those who refuse to be tested will be required to remain in quarantine for an additional 10 days – 24 in total to ensure they pose no risk of introducing coronavirus to the Victorian community.

- Nasopharyngeal swabs collected by trained healthcare workers remains the gold standard test. Victoria commenced limited saliva testing in hotspots as part of department-led enhanced surveillance activities.

More information

Clinical information

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

Consumer information

[Translated resources in over 50 languages](#)

[Victoria's current restrictions](#)

[COVID-19 suburban testing blitz - hotspots](#)

[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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