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) .

12/07/2020

What's new?

- As of 12 July 2020, the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Victoria is 3,799, with 273 new cases since yesterday's report.

- The overall total has increased by 239, with 34 cases reclassified, largely due to duplication. Of the new cases, 22 are linked to outbreaks, 25 were identified by routine testing, and 226 remain under investigation. No new cases have been detected in returned travellers in hotel quarantine.

- 562 cases may indicate community transmission.

- 57 people are in hospital, including 16 patients in intensive care. 24 people have died, an increase of one since yesterday's report.

- There are 1484 cases currently active in Victoria. 2289 people have recovered.

- Of the total cases, 3,415 are from metropolitan Melbourne and 288 are from regional Victoria.

- More than 1,125,400 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.

- An update to the Case and Contact Management Guidelines (v23 10 July 2020) has been made and relates to the definition of close contact.

- Up-to-date [epidemiological data is available on our website](#).

Stay at Home Directions

- Stay at home directions will remain in place for metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire until 11.59pm Wednesday 19 August.

- People who live in these areas are only allowed to go out for four reasons: shopping for food and supplies, health care and caregiving, outdoor exercise, and study or work – if unable to work or study from home.

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 coronavirus (COVID-19)** AND who are close contacts of a confirmed case of coronavirus (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.

Key messages for the community

- 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](#).

- If you live in metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire and are aged 18 years or older, it is recommended that you wear a face mask when you leave home if it is going to be difficult for

you to maintain 1.5 metres of distance between yourself and other people. Face masks are not a substitute for physical distancing.

- This is an anxious and uncertain time for everyone and support is vital and available. For more information about managing stress and support options, call the Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Services on 1800 512 348 or visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

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](#)

[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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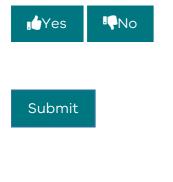[Follow the Chief Health Officer on Twitter](#)

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Address: 50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
3000

Phone: 1300 650 172

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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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