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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 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).

**18/07/2020**

## What's new?

- As of 18 July 2020, the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Victoria is 5,353 with 217 new cases since yesterday's report.
- The overall total has increased by 188, with 32 cases reclassified, largely due to duplication. Of the new cases, 11 are linked to outbreaks and 205 are under investigation. There was one case in a returned traveller in hotel quarantine.
- 1,020 cases remain under investigation, which in some cases may indicate community transmission.
- 110 people are in hospital, including 25 patients in intensive care. There have been three deaths reported since yesterday. To date, 35 people have died.
- There are 2,608 cases currently active in Victoria. 2,709 people have recovered.
- Of the total cases, 4,909 are from metropolitan Melbourne and 324 are from regional Victoria.
- More than 1,278,000 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](#).

# Stay at Home Directions

- Stay at Home Directions are in force across metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire.
- 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.
- If you're the doctor of a confirmed case, check in regularly on your patient – if they are not stable or improving, consider tertiary referral as your next step.
- An update to the [Case and Contact Management Guidelines](#) (v23 10 July 2020) has been made and relates to the assessment of close contact in healthcare workers who wear masks.

## 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](#).
- The Chief Health Officer recommends that Victorians 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 but may help reduce your risk when close to others.

- The Victorian Government launched a new digital mental health platform for young people called MOST – Moderated Online Social Therapy – an online tool which allows young people to access tailored online therapy and peer support. It is now available for clients of Orygen in the North and West of Melbourne – a state wide roll out will continue progressively throughout the year.
- 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](https://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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Address: 50 Lonsdale Street  
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3000

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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.

