



COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Information from the SA Health GP Liaison

17 July 2020

The situation in Victoria is very concerning, especially the rising number of healthcare workers who are testing positive for COVID-19. Thank you to everyone in primary care for all that you're doing during the pandemic. Please email if you have any issues or concerns. And don't forget please test anyone who has symptoms, even mild. If you don't have PPE, please send your patient to a testing [clinic](#).

Urgent testing reminder

There is a higher risk of COVID-19 in South Australia due to the outbreak in Victoria. Anyone with symptoms (fever, cough, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath or loss of taste or smell) should be tested for COVID-19, even if symptoms are mild. It is concerning to hear that some people are being told they don't need a test as no evidence of active cases here in SA. Please send all patients with symptoms for [testing](#). Turn-around times are quick and patients should stay isolated until results are back.

SA Health text alerts

SA Health are sending text alert messages to people who have entered South Australia from Victoria since the border restrictions changed on 9 July. These messages advise people to get tested in the first 24 hours and on day 12 of their 14 day self-quarantine period. These messages will be sent daily to SA residents who have returned from Victoria and are self-quarantining.

New case added to SA numbers

Further testing on a potential COVID-19 case has returned a very low positive result. This positive case has been added to South Australia's case numbers. The woman, in her 40s, is not infectious and the case is considered to be an old infection, as confirmed on serology. She had previously travelled overseas and undertook mandatory 14-day quarantine in Victoria, where she returned two negative tests.

Surveillance Update

Testing of asymptomatic healthcare workers commenced in Mt Gambier during the week. This forms part of the [SA Health Surveillance Plan](#), which also includes FIFO, fruit pickers and truck drivers.

COVID-19 Testing and Medicare

There is no cost to Medicare eligible patients for COVID-19 tests. For asymptomatic travellers from Victoria, there is also no cost to the patient/traveller, as this forms part of our [SA Health Surveillance Plan](#). Overseas residents who fall ill in Australia (and are not eligible for Medicare) often have health or travel insurance. For those who do not have adequate insurance coverage, SA Health hospitals and COVID-19 testing centres will waive the costs of diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19.

SA Health Website

The [Health Professionals COVID-19 resources](#)

Telephone numbers

SA COVID-19 Information line: 1800 253 787

SA COVID-19 Social and non-clinical support: 1300 705 336

SA COVID-19 Mental health support: 1800 632 753

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Department for Health and Wellbeing

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019



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