



# COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Information from the SA Health GP Liaison

26 June 2020

I hope you all manage a rest over the weekend! It is imperative that we continue high rates of testing, even mild symptoms warrant a swab. Please refer your patients to a drive through clinic, COVID clinic (no booking required) or Respiratory clinic if you can't swab. It's so important that we do not become complacent. Any questions please email me at [Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au).

## **Spirometry Manual**

After Tuesday's update on spirometry, Dr Kerry Hancock kindly sent me the Spirometry Manual (attached) she and Richard Parsons, chief respiratory scientist down at SALHN, have developed. It's fantastic and hopefully will help cover some of questions you've been emailing about. Thanks Kerry!

## **Respiratory Clinics Extended Hours**

The metro respiratory clinics have all increased their hours, which is fantastic news. [Adelaide Central](#), [North Eastern](#) and [Reynella](#), are now open on Saturday mornings and they all have appointments available currently for tomorrow!! Please utilise this GP-led service for your respiratory patients if you cannot assess and manage safely within your rooms.

## **Vulnerable Patient Pathology Collection Centres**

A reminder that SA Pathology has [three](#) dedicated collection centres for patients who are vulnerable. We need to make sure the community is undertaking their usual investigations and not feeling worried about attending a collection centre and waiting in line.

## **COVID-19 Hotline**

The South Australian COVID-19 Information Line has changed its operating hours. It is now available between 9am and 5pm, 7 days a week, on 1800 253 787.

## **Survey Reminder – Virtual Support for Residential Aged Care Facilities**

To minimise the impact of COVID-19 and reduce the need for transfer to ED from a RACF, the Department for Health and Wellbeing here in SA will be undertaking an important virtual support pilot. The Geriatric Support pilot would enable some residents' health care needs to be managed without having to leave the facility through access to real time Geriatric nursing and specialist geriatrician advice. The program is not designed to replace existing escalation procedures within RACFs but to add another level of support for residents, staff, GPs and locums to assist in providing appropriate and safe care in the resident's home. A quick 5 question [survey](#) has been developed to understand GP and locum uptake and feedback on the process. Attached is the consultation paper for GPs and also the draft flow chart.



### **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

### **Dr Emily Kirkpatrick**

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SA Health COVID-19 GP Liaison

Department for Health and Wellbeing

[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/C  
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