

COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Information from the SA Health GP Liaison

23 June 2020

A further easing of restrictions was announced today, coming into effect on June 29, including a change to 1 person per 2 metre square. Check-out the road map [here](#). It's imperative that we continue high rates of testing, even mild symptoms warrant a swab. If you have any ideas of how general practice or the community can increase testing please email me at Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au Always happy to help!!

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.



Spirometry

The national guidelines are now that spirometry can resume, provided the patient is not unwell or has an acute viral respiratory illness and an inline filter is present in the device. The asthma foundation and thoracic society has supported this. A new [spirometry handbook for primary care](#) has just been released. See the National Asthma Council advice [here](#) and nps advice [here](#). Nebulisers still should not be used.

Updated CDNA SoNG

The current Australian disease guidelines for COVID-19 – the [SoNG](#) has been updated today. A new section includes ‘given the low pre-test probability of community members without any epidemiological risk factors, persons tested as part of enhanced testing do not need to be re-tested during the same illness if their first result is negative. Clinical judgment should be exercised when considering retesting.’ I know this has been a common question about re-swabbing during the same clinical illness.

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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SA Health COVID-19 GP Liaison

Department for Health and Wellbeing

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