



COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Information from the SA Health GP Liaison

24 August 2020

Good evening everyone. Just one new case from yesterday, in a senior nurse who worked in the nursing team deployment at the front line in Victoria, assisting in the aged care space. She is currently stable and no further concerns. Thank you for your ongoing support and care to your patients. Any issues, email me at Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au

Exemptions FAQs

SA Health has now uploaded Exemption FAQs on the website, which detail common examples of where an exemption may or may not be given for cross border travel. I'm so thrilled to see this go live. Access [here](#)

Update of CDNA COVID-19 SoNG

The CDNA SoNG has been [updated today](#) to include changes with regards to clearance of COVID-19 positive patients, such that two swabs, 24 hours apart, can be used for clearance in conjunction with the other criteria when 'individuals have a persistent post-viral cough with negative test results, they are eligible for release from isolation'. Thank you to the GP Assessment Team for their ongoing involvement with COVID-19 cases in the MediHotels.

SA Pathology Update

SA Pathology will now sms all patients their results, if a mobile phone number is provided. The Personify Care app will be put on hold in the interim to ensure there is no delay. I've had a few questions in regards to this, so I'll try and answer your questions! There is a [pathology reporting direction](#), which requires the labs to notify the person swabbed their result, however there is no time limit on this. SA Pathology aim to deliver their results within 72 hours of the patient being swabbed. As an interim a patient or their GP can email SA Path for their results with their name and DOB and a clinician will call them back to confirm identity and provide results. Health.SAPathologyCallCentre@sa.gov.au. Patients can provide their GPs details when attending a drive through. Results should be available within 24 hours on MyHR.

Stop the Spread campaign

This week SA Health launched the next phase of the [Stop the Spread campaign](#). This encourages the community to continue following health advice to stop the spread of COVID-19 in South Australia. I have heard reports from multiple GPs of patients with URTI symptoms not getting tested and complacency setting in. Please continue to direct your patients with symptoms for a swab, even if mild, noting that loss of taste and smell is a common symptom with no other signs.

Greater Brisbane and Ipswich public health alert

SA Health is asking all travellers returning from the Greater Brisbane or Ipswich areas to closely watch for COVID-19 symptoms on their return to South Australia and to get tested for COVID-19 if any symptoms develop, even if very mild. Currently there is no required self-isolation, however, this may change depending on health advice from Queensland Health. Anyone in SA who has visited any of the venues posted by Queensland Health during the times and dates listed is requested to self-isolate for 14 days from the date they attended the venue. A list of the venues can be found at <https://bit.ly/32ik5YH>. Travellers returning from the Greater Brisbane and Ipswich areas should not attend nursing or disability homes or visit vulnerable people for 14 days from their return. This includes aged and disability care workers, who should have a negative COVID-19 test result before returning to work. SA Health is encouraging travellers to rethink their travel plans to Queensland where possible as quarantine requirements may change depending on the situation.

Cross Border Community update

Cross Border Community Members are no longer permitted to cross the border into South Australia from Victoria unless they are:

- Agricultural and farming workers with properties within 40 kilometres of the border
- Students completing years 11 and 12 (and those providing transport to and from school).

Other cross border community members wishing to enter South Australia from Victoria may [re-apply](#) under another essential traveller category, if applicable. These changes take into account the current situation in Victoria and will be continuously monitored, on a daily basis. We are hopeful over the next week that there will be no further community transmission in the western Victoria shires. The New South Wales cross border community member arrangements remain unchanged.

RACGP Webinar - Keeping your practice COVID-safe

SA Health, in conjunction with RACGP, are hosting a webinar about infection prevention and control measures in order to maintain the safety of GPs, staff and patients. The webinar will be held on **Thursday, 3 September at 6.30pm (ACST) - register [here](#)**. If you can't log in via the RACGP portal, please email sant.events@racgp.org.au for assistance in registering. Thank you to the RACGP for hosting this webinar for GPs, nurses and practice staff.

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Department for Health and Wellbeing

[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/
COVID2019](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019)



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