



COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Information for General Practice

OFFICIAL

24 July 2021

Good afternoon everyone. There are currently 26 active case of COVID-19 in South Australia. Check out the [dashboard](#) for further details.

COVID-19 case update

There is one new locally acquired case of COVID-19 reported today. The case is a man in his 60s whose infection is linked to previously confirmed cases in the Modbury cluster.

A man in his 80s and a woman in her 80s are in the Royal Adelaide Hospital in a stable condition.

COVID-19 exposure locations

SA Health has identified further public [exposure locations](#) associated with positive cases of COVID-19. These sites are being continually updated and some sites have also adjusted their exposure risk and required health action.

If you have a patient who is concerned that they have attended an exposure site, information and advice can be found at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVIDcontacttracing.

COVID-19 testing access

Thank you South Australia for doing the right thing and getting tested if you are required to do so, or if you have symptoms.

More testing sites have been made operational and several sites have extended operating hours.

The Mile End Netball Stadium COVID-19 walk-in testing site is now open 24/7 until further notice.

There is also now an online booking system being trialled for the Ridgehaven Waterworld COVID-19 drive-through testing clinic and is accessible via a link on the [SA Health Testing for COVID-19 page](#).

For more information, visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidtesting.

Extended Hours for COVID Testing at GP Respiratory Clinics

Several GP Respiratory Clinics around Adelaide have **extended their operating hours over the weekend and through next week** to increase access to testing. Generally these are by appointment only. Some appointments may also be able to provide appropriate medical review and testing of acute respiratory symptoms. GPs can refer patients to book online or via phone as directed by the clinic.

Access to COVID-19 vaccine for patients in quarantine

People cannot leave quarantine to get a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination and appointments must be rescheduled.

The second dose of the Pfizer vaccine can be administered up to 42 days after the first dose. The second appointment should rescheduled within this time frame, if

possible.

The second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can be administered up to 12 weeks after the first dose. The second appointment should be rescheduled within this time frame, if possible.

If the second dose appointment cannot be rescheduled, email SA Health at Health.DHWCOVID19VACCTEAM@sa.gov.au with name, contact number and booking details. Someone will be in contact to arrange a new booking at a suitable clinic.

Fit Testing access for General Practice

We are aware of the increased need to access appropriate fit-testing of N95/P2 masks with increased need for testing.

This is consistent with [updated guidelines from the Infection Control Expert Group](#) and in particular for [health care workers](#).

We are looking at options and hope to have more resources for performing fit-testing to update you on Monday.

In situations where fit-testing has not yet been carried out, and a P2/N95 respirator is recommended for use, a **fit-checked** P2/N95 respirator is preferred to a surgical mask. This means ensuring an appropriate seal is created each time a respirator is donned. As an interim, the NSW Health Clinical Excellence commission has a series of excellent YouTube [videos](#) on how to fit-check a P2/N95 mask.

Contact with patients/staff who have attended an exposure site

With the large number of exposure sites over the past week, several practices have queried whether further restrictions are required when staff or patients have been on site at the practice after attending an exposure site and prior to been notified of a need to quarantine.

Contact with a patient who may have visited a high-risk site will not require isolation of staff or closure of the practice if appropriate standard infection control measures for health care settings are taken (i.e. masks worn by staff and patients, +/- gown, gloves as appropriate).

If a patient attends for treatment and is subsequently found to be positive for COVID-19 within 48 to 72 hours of visiting the practice, then a risk assessment will have to be made on an individual case-by-case basis with the input of CDCB. If appropriate practice guidelines are followed with respect to PPE etc., then we do not expect there would be a reason to close the practice, in the absence of any possible direct staff exposure. Particular issues can be escalated to CDCB via the GP Liaison team and we will continue to provide general advice out via this channel.

Real-Time Prescription Monitoring

Don't forget to have your say about SA's recently launched Real-Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) system, **ScriptCheckSA** by completing the short 5-minute [survey](#). Your responses to this survey will help inform SA Health to plan for mandating the use of **ScriptCheckSA** in 2022.

SA Health acknowledges the intense pressure and demanding workloads on prescribers during this COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore have extended the deadline for completion of the survey until **COB next Friday 30 July 2021**.

For any questions about the survey, please contact SA Health at Health.RTPM@sa.gov.au and if you experience any issues with completing the survey, please contact newfocus at nfr@newfocus.com.au.

South Australia COVID-19 Update

- 1 new cases

- 26 active COVID-19 cases
- 852 confirmed cases in total
- 822 people have recovered from COVID-19
- 792,104 total vaccine doses to date*
- 23,410 tests yesterday
- 1,798,622 tests in total
- 4 COVID-19 related deaths

* Figure includes both Commonwealth and SA Health administered vaccines

Please forward this update to any colleagues who may not have received it and contact us at Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au to be added to our mailing list or with any other enquiries.

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