



COVID-19

Immediate Attention



Chief Executive Update

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update – 08 April 2020

This email is being sent to all employees for the Chief Executive Andrew Stripp

Message from the Chief Executive

Monash Health is currently treating five COVID-19 positive patients; three at Monash Medical Centre (one in ICU), and two at Dandenong Hospital (one in ICU). Our screening clinics have tested 6,498 people to date.

It is pleasing to see that the number of patients at Monash Health and across the State's health services is remaining low as our community follow the "please stay at home" direction. This also enables the important preparation work to continue alongside caring for COVID-19 patients.

These are the important updates for today.

Model of Care update

To ensure we continue to deliver safe and effective care, we have begun changing the way we admit our planned and emergency patients. This incorporates the screening processes through our three screening clinics and in our emergency departments, as well as the separation of our inpatient COVID-19 and non COVID-19 cohorts in dedicated wards. We will continue to build on these changes as part of our ongoing response to COVID-19.

Testing criteria changes

The testing criteria for COVID-19 has been expanded to include any person meeting either of the two clinical criteria, and

- aged 65 years or older
- or having worked in public-facing roles in the following settings:
 - firefighters who undertake emergency medical response
 - childcare and early childhood education centres
 - primary or secondary schools.

Any inpatient with fever OR acute respiratory symptoms and no other cause can also be tested. This information changes rapidly, so please ensure you refer to the [most up-to-date information here](#).

Donations

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness of our community and partners who wish to help us by making monetary donations or donations in kind. While we appreciate these gestures, it is important to follow the endorsed process to ensure they are put to best use and our employees and community stay safe. Please make sure all offers for donations [adhere to our guidelines](#) and that the Monash Health Foundation is advised so they can assist with any large offers of support.

Thank you again for the outstanding work you are doing in caring for each other and the community.

Andrew Stripp
Chief Executive

Key Messages

Model of care update

We are changing the way we admit our planned and emergency patients to hospital in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more about our new Model of Care.](#)

Testing criteria changes

Testing criteria for COVID-19 has changed. Ensure you are up to date with the latest guidelines from the Department of Health and Human Services, available on the COVID-19 employee website [Employee Testing page](#).

Donations and gifts

During the COVID-19 response, we have been receiving an increased number of queries from businesses and the general public about donating food, toys and other items such as Personal Protective Equipment. [Read more about the right process to follow here.](#)

Screening Clinic testing turnaround times for employees

For our employees, the current turnaround time to get results back is 24-36 hours, depending on the demand at Clayton Pathology. ICU and inpatient testing is also a priority. [Please see here for more information.](#)

Refreshing our COVID-19 website

To continue to support easy access to COVID-19 information, we have made some improvements to the Monash Health Employee website so that it is easier to use. All of the same content is still here. However, the new format will make the new information that is added daily easier to find. Read more here.

Download the employee coronavirus.monashhealth.org site to your smartphone to ensure you stay up-to-date with this rapidly changing situation. Instructions can be found [here](#).

All managers are requested to share these updates with their teams and discuss at stand-ups and handovers. Please print a copy and display it in communication books and on employee noticeboards.

As advice and information evolve, please consult the latest updates and visit the [Department of Health and Human Services](#) and [Monash Health COVID-19](#) website for employees regularly for the latest.

