



COVID-19

Immediate Attention



Chief Executive Update

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update – 17 April 2020

Message from the Chief Executive

Monash Health is currently treating four COVID-19 positive patients, two at Monash Medical Centre, and two at Dandenong Hospital (both in ICU). Our screening clinics have tested 7,880 people to date.

The downturn in new cases that are being reported has allowed us to consolidate many of the changes we have made and fine-tune our models of care. Thank you again to all for your involvement in this continuous improvement process.

I appreciate your commitment and perseverance thus far and want to highlight today's priorities.

Thermal scanning and employee site access

We are rolling out tripod-mounted thermal scanners at Casey, Clayton, Dandenong, Kingston, and Moorabbin sites combined with a consolidation of entranceways available for employee passcard access. We thank you for your understanding and co-operation as we introduce further measures to keep our patients, employees, and community safe. These changes may mean you have to walk a little further to gain access to the hospital.

New Managers' website pages

We want our leaders to be confident and able to advise their teams throughout this time. A new section has been added to the COVID-19 website to ensure the specific needs of our management team are catered for, so they can lead their teams with the latest advice.

Looking after the people who make this possible

Please continue to use the resources and support available to you; they are there because we could not do this without you, and we genuinely want to ensure every one of you is supported, is prepared and, of course, stays safe in the times ahead.

Andrew Stripp
Chief Executive

Key Messages

Greater clarity for at-risk employees

Additional information is available to help employees and managers assess where at-risk employees should and should not work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Find out more [here](#).

Looking after yourself

As the changes in our home and work lives become our 'new normal', it is vital you prioritise your health and wellbeing. [A range of resources is available to you here.](#)

Thermal scanners and employee site access

Newly installed thermal scanners produce a quick and accurate check for elevated temperatures, while enabling us to continue appropriate social distancing. Employees should have identification badges visible for rapid processing through the scanning checkpoints, and familiarise themselves with access points and opening hours, as passcard access will be disabled for some entrances. This is a necessary measure since community transmission of COVID-19 means greater vigilance is required to safeguard against undetected illness. We thank you for your co-operation and understanding of the new measures. For further information about thermal scanning, Change Impact Statement, and access restrictions for employees, please click [here](#).

Support for workforce mobilisation and reassignment

We need to support our response to COVID-19 by ensuring we can rapidly match employees with qualifications or experience that are relevant to critically required roles, or to backfill existing roles. To help us mobilise the right people to the right place, please complete the [Workforce Mobilisation Profile](#).

Guidance for Managers

We have released a new section for Managers on the Monash Health Employees' Coronavirus website, providing information about our strategic response to the pandemic and what you need to do to lead your team during this challenging time. [See more here.](#)

Nothing gets in the way of patient experience

With visitor restrictions now in place across all our sites, our Patient Experience team stepped up to run a pilot for a virtual visiting program enabling our inpatients to visit with loved ones, even from a distance. Read more [here](#).

WHO-endorsed research trial into COVID-19 now enrolling

Don't forget to enrol in the World Health Organisation-endorsed research trial to investigate whether a Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine can help reduce the impact of COVID-19 in health care workers. This study is approved and is now enrolling Monash Health clinical employees. Learn more [here](#).

Ensure you are working to the most up-to-date advice

The information about COVID-19 is changing rapidly. Ensure you are working to the most up-to-date advice by referring to the [Monash Health Employee Coronavirus website](#). To make accessing the site quicker, you can create a shortcut on your smartphone by following [these instructions](#).

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.