



COVID-19

Immediate Attention



# Chief Executive Update

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) update – 5 May 2020

This email is being sent to all employees.

### Message from the Chief Executive

Today is the [International Day of the Midwife](#), a day to recognise the hard work and dedication of our incredible midwives. It is an occasion to celebrate their profession and their remarkable contribution to maternal and newborn health.

We currently have three (former) COVID-19 positive patients at Monash Health. All are now testing negative and remain in hospital for other reasons.

The screening blitz remains an area of focus, and we have opened new screening clinics at Kingston, Springvale and Pakenham, adding to those at Clayton, Dandenong, Berwick and Cranbourne. Our testing numbers are increasing rapidly, passing 15,000 yesterday and I would like to congratulate everyone involved in standing these services up so quickly. I particularly want to thank the extraordinary work of our pathology team, who have responded and adapted quickly and with little warning.

The current State of Emergency in Victoria runs through until 11 May 2020, when the Government will advise what future steps may look like for our community. With that in mind, a review of the pandemic response plan model of care and capacity is underway, given our lower demand, and the possibility of any impact if restrictions are lifted. Options will be discussed at the Executive Strategy meeting today.

#### Employee screening clinics

We are supporting the state's testing blitz, with new COVID-19 testing clinics for employees at Monash Medical Centre Clayton, Dandenong Hospital, Casey Hospital, Cranbourne Integrated Care Centre, Springvale Community Health Centre, Pakenham Health Centre, Moorabbin Hospital and the Kingston Centre. [Read more here](#).

#### Don't forget the 'basics'

Despite our focus on COVID-19, we need to make sure we keep our eye on the ball and follow correct processes and procedures in all areas at all times; to get the basics right. Tasks such as performing timely risk assessments, using our basic safety processes, falls best practice and medication management. The elements of daily care that we must adhere to ensure we provide the best possible patient outcomes. [See more here](#).

## **Recognising and celebrating excellence**

Over the last few weeks, we have seen many 'good news stories' emerge, such as the transformative role our Distribution Centre is playing, the quick development of our resuscitation bays at Monash Medical Centre, and opening of our Casey Tower. Today I invite you to read about the outstanding leadership and innovation shown by a group of junior medical staff to deliver responsive and timely care to people with a suspected COVID-19 diagnosis, and our nurse educators who have trained over 7,000 employees in the correct use of PPE.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and effort. My particular thanks today goes to our hardworking midwives, please join me in thanking them for all that they do.

**Andrew Stripp**  
**Chief Executive**

## **Key messages**

### **Premier's thank you**

We have received a letter from the Premier, the Hon. Daniel Andrews, thanking every Victorian working in our health services. [Read more here.](#)

### **Hand Sanitiser Update**

Following a great deal of effort to ensure employees have sufficient and appropriate products to support excellent hand hygiene, we are now using two hand sanitisers in clinical areas – Avagard and De-Bug. [Read more here.](#)

### **World Hand Hygiene Day – 5 May 2020**

This year, more than ever, stopping the spread of illness is in our hands. Hand Hygiene is one of the most effective actions to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including the COVID-19 virus. [Read more here.](#)

### **An Innovation Challenge – Accelerating the transformation of our digital health system**

The Australian Digital Health Agency is challenging innovators across Australia to come forward with scalable tools and solutions that position us to improve our digital health system. [Read more here.](#)

### **Leave**

You are encouraged to apply for annual leave and utilise any excess annual leave you may have. We have updated the [leave entitlements](#) questions and answers on the Monash Health COVID-19 employee website, to help you have conversations with your manager and put in place the most appropriate arrangements.

### **Family violence responses**

With the [ABC reporting](#) an expected surge in demand following the pandemic crisis, it's timely to remember that family violence services, health services, and police are available to support victims/survivors at any time. If you are in immediate danger, call 000. Family violence support can also be accessed through 1800RESPECT, Safe Steps 1800 015 188, the South East Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA) 9594 2289 and No to Violence 1300 766 491. [Read more here.](#)

We've also made some of our [family violence material](#) available on the Monash Health Employees coronavirus website, to support managers and employees understand what support and training is available internally. Remember, you can ask about family violence and we have a range of support available for our employees.

### **Nurse Educators lift to deliver vital PPE training**

We caught up with Jacqui Jeffery, a Clinical Nurse Educator, to find out more about the delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training to more than 7,000 employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more here](#).

### **Bringing out the best in times of crisis**

[Read this good-news story](#) about how a team of doctors quickly stepped up to innovate and implement an important service in admitting and caring for people with a suspected COVID-19 diagnosis.

### **Let's work together to stop the spread of COVID-19**

[COVIDSafe](#) is an app developed by the Australian Government that assists health officials in understanding and tackling the spread of Coronavirus. Download the app by searching 'COVIDSafe' from the App Store or Google Play. [Read more here](#).

### **LEGO Masters visit MCH**

This week, Monash Children's Hospital patients scored some time with The Brickman himself, Ryan McNaught, from LEGO Masters. [See 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](#).

### **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](#).

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**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 [dhhs.vic.gov.au]Department of Health and Human Services and [coronavirus.monashhealth.org]Monash Health COVID-19 website for employees regularly for the latest.**

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