



COVID-19

Immediate Attention



Chief Executive Update

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update – 30 June 2020

This email is being sent to all employees.

Message from the Chief Executive

As of today, we have:

- No COVID-19 positive inpatients.
- Two employees with COVID-19. They are both in isolation at home and doing well.
- 20 employees in precautionary quarantine, as a result of three separate potential exposures. This number is steadily reducing as people pass 14 days in quarantine and receive a clear swab result from day 11.

The suburban testing blitz continues. Widespread testing (and contact tracing) is one of the most effective things we can do to contain COVID-19. Our testing teams, led by Claire Pierce, have done a remarkable job, delivering over 12,000 tests in the past week alone. We've quickly established new testing locations, [and now have six in total](#), including three drive-through clinics: Cranbourne, Dandenong and Pakenham. [Priority testing for employees is available at four sites.](#)

Changes to the State of Emergency

The Premier has just announced a return to "Stage 3 stay at home restrictions" until at least 29 July 2020. There are ten postcodes impacted by this announcement, none of which are near to Monash Health. Neither Pakenham nor Hallam are included. You can [read the Premier's announcement here](#) and [see the impacted postcodes here](#).

Staying safe

The most important thing that we can all do to stay safe is to remain vigilant and disciplined with our safety measures. Simply put, these are:

- Hand hygiene.
- Using the appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when droplet precautions are indicated, if there is any risk of exposure to body fluids, for home visits within Casey and Cardinia, or if you are unsure.
- Risk-assessing the situation before any patient contact. If you can't assess the situation, it's better to be prepared with PPE: "if in doubt, don't go without".
- Completing your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refresher training on LATTE and face-to-face.

Join us to hear about how contact tracing works

We have robust processes in place to respond to any potential exposure events. At tomorrow's

Grand Round, we will discuss the process of contact tracing, isolation and the communication you can expect if we have a potential exposure event. [Read more about this event here.](#)

Returning to work (when the time comes)

New guides and checklists to help employees safely return to work are now available on our coronavirus website. We know employees across the health service will return at different times and rates, depending on their type of work and the planned reactivation of our services.

Our message remains that, to help protect those who must work on-site, you should continue to work from home if you can, at least until 31 July 2020. The guides and checklists will help keep you safe when you do return. [Read more here.](#)

School holidays

With school holidays upon us, many of you will be looking to take a well-earned break. We have consistently encouraged people to take opportunities to recharge themselves as part of their overall health and wellbeing – and this period is no different.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised Victorians that they may travel within the state these school holidays, as long as they are healthy. Anyone presenting with symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild, must stay home and get tested.

Travellers will benefit from on-site temperature testing over the school holidays, with about 4,800 infrared thermometers being distributed to holiday locations across the state to help keep Victorians safe. In addition, coronavirus testing clinics will be established at popular destinations on the Great Ocean Road and in the Alps: Lorne, Apollo Bay, Falls Creek, Mount Hotham and Mount Buller.

Thank you, and stay safe.

Andrew Stripp
Chief Executive

Key messages

The EMR upgrade is happening – tonight!

We've been working on a range of improvements and enhancements within the EMR, and we're now ready to roll these out. We have planned this process to minimise disruption to your work and have additional support in place should you need it. [Learn more here.](#)

HICT updates details of high-risk areas

The Health Incident Command Team has reviewed which wards are potentially high risk for employees who may be at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19. [Read more here.](#)

When the time is right, help is available to support your safe return to work

New guides and checklists to help employees safely return to work are now available on our intranet and coronavirus website. We know people will return at different times and rates, depending on their type of work and the planned reactivation of our services.

Our message remains that, to help protect those who must work on-site, you should continue to work from home if you can, at least until 31 July 2020. The guides and checklists will help keep you safe when you do return. [Read more here.](#)

We are very close to achieving 100% PPE training

So far, 92% of our employees have completed their online PPE training via LATTE, and 90% have completed the face-to-face training.

Face-to-face sessions are running daily at 2pm across Clayton, Dandenong, Casey, Moorabbin and Kingston, and laptops are available at these sessions and across locations to complete the online LATTE component. Face-to-face WebEx sessions are also available. [Read more here.](#)

Last chance to nominate your STARS

In the last few months, we have seen so many extraordinary examples of kindness, respect, and excellence across Monash Health. Who are your STAR colleagues or teams? Nominate an individual or team through the [STAR award portal](#) before **midnight tonight (Tuesday 30 June 2020)**. [Read more here.](#)

Vaccination or declaration is mandatory – we've hit 86%

The annual influenza vaccination or declaration by all Monash Health employees is mandatory. The vaccination is the most effective way to prevent infection and, so far, more than 86% of employees have done so. We've got about seven weeks to go so [let's hit our targets!](#)

Ward Boards are important tools

Please spend some time next week ensuring your unit's Welcome to Ward and Quality Boards are up-to-date. It's essential that this information is current, accurate, and reflects the great work happening in your ward. Learn more [here](#).

Gym re-opens at Clayton

We are pleased to announce that Healthwise Fitness has re-opened at Monash Medical Centre. Monash Health employees can again enjoy the gym's facilities for both individual fitness sessions and group classes. [Read more here.](#)

Continue to take advantage of wellbeing resources

Take advantage of the health and wellbeing resources we have available for you, including the [Call a Psychologist](#) service and the [employee assistance program](#). Don't forget [the basics](#) of your physical health and remember we have links to resources online for you and your teams, including a helpful guide to [stretching at your desk](#), wherever that desk might be.

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.
