

Our ref H20/66621-1

General Practitioner update

NSW has successfully suppressed COVID-19 to very low levels. However, we are identifying sporadic cases of COVID-19 in the community. This indicates that the virus is still present in the community, albeit at very low levels. General practice has a continuing role in promoting testing and ensuring appropriate measures are in place to ensure that people presenting with respiratory symptoms are managed within the practice environment with appropriate infection control measures.

The increasing levels of rhinovirus observed in recent weeks indicate that behavioural measures of social distances and hand hygiene are waning. It is therefore important that we continue to reinforce the importance of these messages.

Victoria is currently responding to increased COVID-19 activity within some areas of Melbourne. The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) met on 21 June about this recent outbreak of COVID-19 in Victoria. The Victorian Government has identified the local government (LGAs) areas of Hume, Casey, Brimbank, Moreland, Cardinia and Darebin as the current outbreaks of concern. These LGAs are all located in Melbourne.

The AHPPC strongly discourages travel to and from these areas until control of community transmission has been achieved.

For further information about testing and updated COVID-19 advice for health professionals can be found at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/advice-for-professionals.aspx>

Thank you for being responsive to the need to increase testing to ensure any new cases or outbreaks are identified and managed rapidly. If you would like more information, please contact your local NSW Health public health unit on 1300 066 055.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Chant".

Dr Kerry Chant
Chief Health Officer, NSW Health
25 June 2020