

Emergency Department COVID-19 update

The outbreak of COVID-19 continues in Victoria and an outbreak has been detected in South Western Sydney, associated with the Crossroads Hotel in Casula. While cases to date have been all linked epidemiologically, there remains an ongoing risk of transmission from both Victoria and South Western Sydney to other parts of NSW.

It is vital that cases are found early, by ensuring high rates of testing are maintained throughout NSW and especially in areas that may have had a recent influx of arrivals from Victoria and around border areas.

Given the recent increase in cases in South Western Sydney, clinicians should maintain a high index of suspicion in patients presenting to the Emergency Department. Emergency Departments in South Western Sydney should provide all presentations with a surgical mask to limit the risk of any further transmission.

In addition, all NSW Emergency Departments must screen all presentations upon arrival for travel to Victoria in the last 14 days or attended venues in South Western Sydney where infectious cases have visited (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>). **It is important to regularly check this website, as this list may expand.** These patients should be provided with a surgical mask.

Please note that people who attended the **Crossroads Hotel, Casula** (3-10 July), **Picton Hotel** (4, 5, 9, 10 July) or **Planet Fitness Gym, Casula** (4-10 July) have been told to immediately self-isolate for 14 days since they last visited the venue and get tested, even if they are asymptomatic. They need to complete the 14 day self-isolation period, even if they return a negative test result during this time, and get re-tested if they develop symptoms. In addition, people who were at the **West's Leagues Club** on the evening of Friday 10 July and in the early hours of the morning on Sunday 12 July have been asked to self-isolate and get tested for COVID-19, even if asymptomatic.

Please undertake COVID-19 testing for any patients reporting respiratory symptoms, loss of sense of smell or taste, or unexplained fever, regardless of exposures they report.

Any health care, aged care, disability support workers or residents or others who live or work in a sensitive setting, should be noted on the laboratory request form so their test can be prioritised. Additional information about prioritisation for public health purposes is available here: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/communities-of-practice/Pages/testing-prioritisation.aspx>

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 this infection control advice, and to the need to increase testing to ensure any new cases or outbreaks are identified and managed rapidly. For more information, please contact your local NSW Health public health unit on 1300 066 055.



Dr Kerry Chant
Chief Health Officer