



4 May 2020

Thank you SA GPs for all that you're doing. 12 days in a row of no new cases!!! I hope you all managed to have a restful weekend. Any concerns or comments, please email at: Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au

COVID-19 CDNA SoNG Update

The CDNA have [updated](#) the SoNG to reflect a number of new changes. In addition, the evidence and background to COVID-19 have been included. One of the key messages to reiterate from these guidelines is that a case can be released from home isolation if at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and there has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 72 hours. If a case who meets these criteria is swabbed, then the case be released from isolation regardless of the swab test result. The current evidence from the literature and Australian public health experience suggests that these people are unlikely to be infectious. Check out this [video](#) on loss of smell from ENT UK. SA Health have also put out some terms to know for COVID below as well, which could help explain concepts to patients.



PPE Update

The Commonwealth has published an update on the [distribution of PPE through PHNs: Tranche 4, surgical masks and P2/N95 respirators for general practice, community pharmacy, and allied health](#). This aligns with the recent [SoNG](#) which outlines the need to supply a mask to any patient who is tested for COVID-19, at the time of testing. Please see the [SA Health Strategies for optimising supply of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) and also the [COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Matrix and Infection Control Recommendations](#) which emphasises the need to still wear full PPE, including surgical mask, when swabbing patients. There is no requirement to wear a P2 mask when swabbing patients with a mild illness. If a patient is acutely unwell with respiratory compromise in your clinic these patients should not be swabbed at the time, but instead if acutely unwell, transferred via SAAS to the appropriate hospital.

To note, the RACGP have stated in their [infection control guidelines](#) that “for specimen collection with no clinical examination, a gown is not needed unless close physical contact with a symptomatic patient or splash/spray of body substances is anticipated. For specimen collection only from an asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic patient, a gown or apron is not essential and, if worn, does not need to be changed between patients unless obviously contaminated.” We have been advised here in SA that a gown should be worn when swabbing and unless operating a drive through clinic or multiple swabs in succession, the gown should be

changed between patient encounters or when droplets are known to have come in contact with the gown, such as sneezed on during drive through clinic. We are aware of cases whereby practitioners have had to self-isolate for 14 days for not wearing full PPE when swabbing.

Vulnerable population groups

SA Health have released a [GP Guide for Vulnerable Population Groups in Community Settings](#). This guide aims to highlight to GPs the resources available and also discusses the need to ensure that visits by GPs are only essential and determine whether care be appropriately delivered via distance means, such as via telehealth consultation. [National management guidelines](#) and [guidelines for outbreaks in RACFs](#) have been published online. In addition COVID19 [infection prevention and control in RACFs guidelines](#) have also been published. This is obviously an area that so many of us are worried about. So if you work in a RACF, please consider looking at these helpful documents.

Metrics to relaxing restrictions

For those interested, [here](#) is the latest metric to support decision making for relaxing restriction measures, which the National Cabinet endorsed as part of the medical advice from the AHPPC.

COVIDSafe App

The RACGP have launched a [fact sheet](#) on the COVIDSafe App, which can be emailed or printed for your patients as part of your regular consults. It covers both the safety and usability of the app, helping to answer your patient's questions.

'Get in, train, get out'

This is the key message behind the three stages documented as part of the AIS - Australian Institute of Sport Framework For Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment. Thank you to the GPs and sports doctors who have emailed about this area. We look forward to an announcement over the coming week in this space. It's been excellent to see that local councils can now re-open playgrounds with social distancing and additional cleaning measures.

SA Health Website

The [Health Professionals COVID-19 resources](#) page has now updated.

Priority Care Centres (PCC) GP Pathway

Information about the PCC pathway for GP referrals to avoid ED attendances is now [available online](#).

[Priority Care Centre Information Sheet](#)

[Information Sheet for GP Referred Patients to PCC](#)

[GP info for PCC](#)

[GP pathway to PCC](#)

Telephone numbers

SA COVID-19 Information line:1800 253 787
SA COVID-19 Social and non-clinical support: 1300 705 336
SA COVID-19 Mental health support: 1800 632 753

Dr Emily Kirkpatrick

BMed MPH MMed DCH GCHPE CHIA FRACGP
SA Health COVID-19 GP Liaison
Department for Health and Wellbeing

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019



Government of South Australia

SA Health