

COVID-19 Clinical Advice Update Community of Practice members

10/06/20

Issued to: **Community of Practice members**
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Health

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1. Clinical Communities of Practice (CoPs)



New video updates

Professor Dominic Dwyer – All you need to know about rapid testing

NSW Health Pathology (NSWHP) has significantly boosted its testing capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Find out how this has been achieved, why testing is so important, and the crucial role of rapid testing in NSW Health's response to managing the pandemic in our [new video](#) with Professor Dominic Dwyer.



Dr Elisabeth Murphy – Important message for Child and Family Health

Dr Elisabeth Murphy reminds staff that Child and Family Health services are still open, and referrals are encouraged.

Learn more in our [new video](#).



Consultation with COPs and Clinical Council on the future of health

The Ministry have engaged Bendelta to assist us in facilitating a consultation with all CoPs and the Clinical Council about the health system post-COVID. This is a unique opportunity to provide input from a clinician perspective on the future of health in NSW. The questions we are keen to explore with you are:

- How we engage and create a shared commitment to not 'go back to normal' and maintain the momentum we have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 response?
- How we accelerate and embed change in clinical service delivery and system reform?
- How we reimagine the NSW Health system – what are the possibilities?
- What are the guiding principles for future healthcare in NSW?
- How can we continue to innovate and develop more impactful ways of service planning and delivery?

Bendelta and the Ministry team are working with Clinical Council members to finalise the consultation approach. We will be offering a range of ways for CoPs and Clinical Council members to participate including:

- A 90 min facilitated virtual session with each of the CoPs in coming weeks
- A short online survey
- Series of deep dive discussions on specific topics of interest
- An online collaboration forum

Further information will be circulated to the CoPs as this approach is finalised.

2. What's new this week?



Back-up ventilator solutions

NSW Health, led by Health Infrastructure (HI), has been working with universities and industry partners to support the NSW Government's rapid progress in the manufacture of back-up ventilator solutions in NSW, should they be required in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ventilator solutions are part of a multi-pronged approach to ensure NSW has enough ventilators available to care for those patients with COVID-19 who need this level of care.

[Visit the website](#) to learn more.

PPE Update

Critical PPE Stock on Hand (SHEOC update)

- NSW Health continues to improve the controls associated with ordering to manage current and incoming PPE supplies in line with requirements across the LHDs. The statewide position of surgical masks has improved over the last week due to deliveries arriving at the warehouse. Key focus is on improving the availability of the XL/XXL sizes of level 4 surgical gowns.
- In conjunction with the close management of ordering practices, LHD "cycle counts" of local stock on hand continue weekly to better ascertain stocks held across the LHDs / health facilities and data quality has significantly improved. Cycle 11 was completed on 3 June. Cycle Count 12 is underway.
- The most recent cycle counts have been refined to obtain better line of sight on PPE usage rates and ensure usage is in line with PPE guidelines developed by the CEC. LHDs have access to a statewide dashboard of stock levels across critical items.
- Work continues to ensure ordered stock is confirmed and committed to by suppliers, given the current evolving environment around the global supply chain. This can change due to a range of variables and factors outside of our control. However, NSW Health is working around the clock to build the confidence of the delivery of incoming supplies.
- It is important to note numbers can move day-to-day based on dispatched and incoming stock.
- In addition to the current stock LHDs have on hand, Table 1 below shows additional existing NSW Health warehouse stock.
- There is additional PPE held at the Whole of Government warehouses commissioned as part of the COVID response, of which a large quantity of this stock is allocated for NSW Health use and supplements the Onelink stock outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Available supply of critical PPE and consumables, held by NSW Health central store, as of 9am 9 June 2020

Key products	<u>Stock on hand*</u>	<u>Days supply available**</u>	Notes***
Gowns - Sterile	93,949	46	Next delivery of 5.4K due w/c 8/6
Gowns - Non Sterile	726,869	29	Next delivery of 985K due w/c 8/6
Hand sanitiser	11,447	22	Next delivery of 1.31M due w/c 15/6
Hand Soap	38,521	101	Next delivery of 6K due w/c 15/6
Surgical Masks	7,630,533	193	Next delivery of 5.56M due w/c 8/6
P2/N95 Masks	1,613,795	125	ETD's to be confirmed
Swabs	108,902	52	ETD's to be confirmed
Face Shields	255,854	72	Next delivery of 8.24M due w/c 8/6
Protective eyewear	113,268	28	Next delivery of 409K due w/c 8/6
Gloves - Non Sterile	16,426,420	38	Next delivery of 2.92M due w/c 8/6
Gloves - Sterile & Surgical	1,129,791	94	Next delivery of 105K due w/c 8/6
Thermometer covers	12,948,688	108	Next delivery of 1.92M due w/c 8/6

*Stock on hand excludes hospital stock and consignment stock.

** Days supply available is calculated by dividing stock on hand by the daily average (past 14 days) stock ordered by LHDs from the central warehouse and does not include what is held in the Whole of Government warehouses

*** Notes discuss incoming stock ordered but not confirmed.

Analysis by HealthShare. Data source: Oracle Ordering Stock Management Platform

Weekly medication updates

The CEC is collaborating with HealthShare to produce a weekly update of medications that are being monitored closely due to potential increased therapeutic need or known/anticipated supply chain concerns. These updates can be found on the [CEC website](#).

COVID-19 weekly surveillance in NSW

Summary for the week ending 30 May

- The number of new COVID-19 cases remain low in NSW and mainly in overseas travelers.
- Testing rates were higher this week across most local health districts and increased significantly this week in school aged children.
- The small proportion of COVID-19 tests in the week that were positive indicates that the spread of infection within the community continues to be limited.
- Two of the newly notified cases were students who attended school during their infectious period. The cases were promptly isolated and all close contacts at the two schools have been quarantined. All close contacts of the students are being monitored in quarantine.
- Community restrictions and physical distancing measures in place to control the spread of COVID-19 have had a positive impact on the transmission of other respiratory illnesses:

- The number of people diagnosed with influenza has been declining since early February.
- Presentations for pneumonia to NSW emergency departments have decreased below the usual range for this time of year.
- There is a decrease in reported typical flu-like symptoms for this time of year.
- Continued high rates of testing are necessary to detect and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community.
- NSW Health urges people of all ages, including children, to undergo COVID-19 testing and isolate themselves as soon as mild symptoms of respiratory infection or fever appear.

In Focus – COVID-19 in Aboriginal people: 1 January to 30 May 2020

A review of COVID-19 cases in Aboriginal people up to 30 May found:

- Thirty-one Aboriginal people have been diagnosed with COVID-19. This represents a small proportion of all COVID-19 cases (1%).
- The population rate of COVID-19 is lower for Aboriginal people (11 confirmed cases for every 100,000) in NSW than the rest of the NSW population (39 confirmed cases for every 100,000 population).
- Of the 31 cases, half most likely acquired their infection overseas and the remaining acquired their infection locally in NSW. Around 75% of all cases who acquired their infection locally are linked to another confirmed case.
- Most symptoms reported were mild, and at least 93% of cases have already recovered.
- Testing rates have generally been increasing for Aboriginal people. Up to 23 May, there were 13,976 COVID-19 tests conducted for Aboriginal people in NSW. Most tests were done by public laboratories.
- Testing rates were similar for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people under 60 years old. In older individuals, testing rates were higher in Aboriginal people than in non-Aboriginal people.
- Aboriginal people living in metropolitan local health districts tend to have higher testing rates than Aboriginal people in regional areas.

The complete Week in Review is available on the [NSW Health website](#).

Latest numbers of COVID-19 tests and cases in NSW

Keep up-to-date with the latest number of COVID-19 cases and tests in NSW on the [NSW Health COVID-19 website](#). The new web page includes [daily](#) and weekly reviews, and an interactive map that shows transmission of COVID-19 in the last four weeks.

[Visit the website](#) to learn more.

3. Clinical guidance and resources



Published Guidance

New Guidance

New Clinical Guidance and Resources published week ending 5 June 2020	Developed by
Principles of rehabilitation A response to COVID-19 surge escalation	Rehabilitation CoP
Bereavement care guide	Palliative Care CoP

New Clinical Guidance and Resources published week ending 5 June 2020		Developed by
COVID-19 care planning and resources		Aged Care Unit, Health and Social Policy Branch
COVID-19 and delirium		Aged Care/Aged Health CoP
Supporting visits and contact with family for inpatients in the last days of life		Health and Social Policy Branch

Recently reviewed guidance

Recently Reviewed Clinical Guidance and Resources Revised week ending 5 June 2020		Developed by
COVID-19 medication prescribing guidance - Name change from End of Life and Palliative Care Medication		Health and Social Policy Branch
Maternity and newborn care		Health and Social Policy Branch
Guidance for Child and Family Health Services		Health and Social Policy Branch
Aerosol Generating Respiratory Therapies - Nebulisers		Respiratory CoP
Aerosol Generating Respiratory Therapies - Non-invasive ventilation		Respiratory CoP
Aerosol Generating Respiratory Therapies - High Flow Nasal Prong		Respiratory CoP
Handling of bodies by funeral directors		Environmental Health Branch

Guidelines due for review this week

COP Clinical Guidance and Resources		Review Date
Aged Care/Aged Health	Process for discharge to Residential Aged Care Facility	10/06/20
Cancer & blood and marrow transplant	Guidance for head and neck cancer and high risk procedures	8/06/20
Cancer & blood and marrow transplant	General Guidance Principals - Cancer and Blood and Marrow Transplant	8/06/20
Drug and Therapy	Interim guidance on the use of anti-viral therapy	12/06/20
ICU	Management of paediatric patients requiring intensive care	8/06/20
Maternity and Newborn Care	Guidance for parents and carers concerning infants and COVID-19	10/06/20
NSW Health Pathology	Blood gas analysers during COVID-19: Cessation of pleural fluid testing and other guidance	10/06/20
NSW Health Pathology	Clinical advice on self-collection of swabs for COVID-19 testing	10/06/20
NSW Health Pathology	Minimising transmission of COVID-19: collection of COVID-19 samples in hospitals	10/06/20
NSW Health Pathology	Pneumatic Tube Usage	10/06/20

COP Clinical Guidance and Resources		Review Date
NGO	Process for NSW Health funded Non-Government Organisation providers to request Personal Protective Equipment	8/06/20
Spinal	Planning for disruption of supports and services due to COVID-19	8/06/20
Surgery	COVID-19 aerosolisation during laparoscopic surgery	10/06/20
Surgery	Key Principles for Management of Surgery during COVID-19 pandemic	10/06/20

Guidelines in development

Aged Care <i>Ready for publication</i>	Anaesthetics	Cardiac
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for staff moving between RACF and other facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-operative preparation of elective patients during COVID - 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing admission of patients with atrial fibrillation
Virtual Care	Emergency Department	Infectious Disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring requirements for home-monitoring of COVID patients Toolkit for the rapid creation of virtual health programs Respiratory assessment via telehealth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardiac arrest in ED during COVID-19 Emergency Department management in COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on clinical trials
Intensive Care	Medical Imaging	Rehabilitation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When to use NIV in wards and ICUs Dialysis in ICU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRI Scans during COVID-19 Pandemic Principles for the management of Interventional Radiology procedures during COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of escalation plans for rehabilitation services
Diabetes and Endocrine	Oral Health	Surgery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diabetes outpatient appointment prioritisation guide – for COVID-19 Acute and Sub Acute response NSW Health Obesity service COVID-19 guide Diabetes COVID – Telehealth Virtual Patient Group Education (organisation model) General guidelines for Diabetes Inpatient Management – COVID response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 2 restrictions and Oral Health Infection control guidance within a dental setting (CEC led) Position statement about public dental services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-operative testing criteria Principles for resuming elective surgery

Where can I find the latest resources?

- The **Clinical Guidance** section on the NSW Health COVID-19 location for MedApp.
- The Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) website:
 - [Cleaning and disinfection in the workplace](#)
- Aboriginal Health:
 - [Looking after your health and wellbeing](#)
 - [Other Aboriginal Health resources](#)
- Aged Care:
 - [Aged Care poster](#)

Your feedback and suggestions are welcome

We would like to hear from you about how useful these weekly updates are, and for your suggestions about future content and information that would assist your CoP.

Please contact us at MOH-COVID19-ClinicalAdvice@health.nsw.gov.au

For more information, visit the [COVID-19 website](#).