

Public Health Unit	4221 6700; AH 4222 5000 (Wollongong hospital - ask for Public Health Officer on call)
Statewide PHU number	1300 066 055
COVID-19 cases and local transmission <b>UPDATED</b>	<p>Please find attached the Public Health Unit's <b>weekly epidemiological report</b> for the Illawarra Shoalhaven, and NSW reports <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>The Illawarra-Shoalhaven local health district has recorded <b>0</b> new cases of COVID-19 in the last seven days.</p> <p>The national COVID-19 vaccine rollout strategy has been released, with three, distinct, time-sensitive phases. The first stage will cover around 1.4 million doses to be administered to frontline healthcare workers, border and quarantine workers, and aged care/disability staff and residents. A concise summary of the vaccine rollout strategy can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>To reduce the spread of COVID-19, it is important to test anyone with respiratory symptoms (<b>including a blocked nose</b>), pneumonia and other respiratory syndromes, loss of sense of smell or taste, or unexplained fever, regardless of alternative diagnoses.</p>
Screening staff and patients	<p>All staff and patients should be screened every day prior to entering your practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cold or flu like symptoms or loss of taste/ smell?</li> <li>• contact with COVID-19 case? or return from overseas (incl NZ) or South Australia?</li> <li>• visited any <a href="#">COVID-19 case locations</a>, on dates/ times indicated? <b>UPDATED</b></li> </ul>
RACGP resources	<p>Subscribe to weekly national COVID-19 updates for GPs <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Access RACGP COVID-19 portal, with new resources including COVID Safety Plan for general practice and flowcharts for the assessment of suspected COVID-19, and management of adults with COVID-19 <a href="#">here</a></p>
Testing locations	Find COVID-19 testing clinic locations <a href="#">here</a>
ISLHD visiting hours	11am-1pm & 5-7pm in general wards. See ISLHD website for more information on visiting hours and conditions <a href="#">here</a>

#### COVID-19 new research, evidence and guidance

Vaccination Updates and News <b>NEW</b>	<p>The first doses of the Pfizer vaccine may be available in Australia by mid-February according to the latest information released by NSW health. The Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine may arrive in mid-March.</p> <p>The Norwegian Medicines Agency (NOMA) has commented to the British Medical Journal <a href="#">here</a>. Commenting that the number of deaths are in line with expectations and there is, as yet, no certain connection between the deaths and the vaccine.</p> <p>An informative 11 minute podcast from Professor Norman Swan, addressing the deaths and rationalising cause versus coincidence, can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
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	Communication tools to talk about vaccinations with concerned patients can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
	New research published regarding Moderna's phase 3 randomized, observer-blinded, placebo-controlled vaccine trial can be found <a href="#">here</a> . 30,000 people were given the Moderna mRNA-1273 vaccine, and it showed an efficacy of 94% with no safety concerns identified so far.
The BMJ and WHO <b>NEW</b>	A visual summary of the living guidelines on medications affecting severity and mortality of COVID-19 infections <a href="#">here</a> .
Value in Health Journal <b>NEW</b>	The health economics of vaccinations, and how they relate to the novel coronavirus, are discussed in this <a href="#">editorial</a> .
Annals of Internal Medicine <b>NEW</b>	Evidence from this systematic review and meta-analysis suggests that saliva sampling is similarly sensitive, and less costly than nasopharyngeal swabbing. Saliva tests are more cost-effective due to reduced administrative and clinical costs for training and administration of the test.
COVID-19 <b>research</b>	<i>The Lancet's</i> COVID-19 resource centre. All COVID-19 content is free to access.
<b>National &amp; NSW</b>	
National and NSW COVID-19 Guidelines	CDNA National COVID-19 Guidelines V3.10 (28 October 2020) <a href="#">here</a> and NSW Appendix (26 November 2020) <a href="#">here</a>
Australian Government Department of Health	Webinar series to update GPs and other primary care practitioners on COVID-19 ( <b>UPDATE</b> 3 December, <b>NEXT</b> webinar 17 December 2020) <a href="#">here</a> and link to Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) <a href="#">here</a>
COVID-19 clinical evidence taskforce	Evidence-based 'living guidelines' and flowcharts on clinical management <a href="#">here</a>
Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Health Care	Links to COVID-19 evidence and guidance from organisations in Australia and across global community <a href="#">here</a>
Aboriginal Health	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) - COVID-19 clinical and promotional resources and advice <a href="#">here</a>
APPRISE	APPRISE (Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infection Disease Emergencies) provides a large reliable source of research and resource links, including evidence reviews and research papers, dashboards and tools, <a href="#">here</a>
NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation <b>UPDATED</b>	Links to the Critical Intelligence Unit for rapid, evidence-based advice, including daily digests of new EVIDENCE, and other information to PRIMARY CARE <a href="#">here</a>
NSW Clinical Excellence Commission	Link to COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control resources page with resources for NSW health workers <a href="#">here</a>
NSW Guidance re: self-isolation, returned travellers	COVID-19 guidelines, fact sheets and information, including for suspected and confirmed cases, contacts, returned travellers, flight crew, parents and carers, households of people working in high risk settings, <a href="#">here</a>
<b>International</b>	
University of Oxford	COVID-19 Evidence Service page compiled by the Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine includes links to evidence reviews, data analysis and more <a href="#">here</a>
World Health Organization	The WHO COVID-19 Health Systems Response Monitor (HSRM) collects and organises information on how countries' health systems are responding <a href="#">here</a>
John Hopkins University	The John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center (JHCRC) incorporates analysis, data and facts from experts across Johns Hopkins University <a href="#">here</a>