

COVID-19 cases in NSW <b>UPDATED</b>	Please find <b>weekly epidemiological report</b> for the Illawarra Shoalhaven attached, and NSW here: <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/weekly-reports.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/weekly-reports.aspx</a> Between 10 & 17 October 31 new cases were notified in NSW, a 12 case increase compared to the previous 7 days. Meanwhile COVID-19 tests increased by 10%. Most cases were from known sources in South Western and Western Sydney; however, <b>4 new cases from unknown sources indicate ongoing community transmission in NSW</b> . No recent locally acquired cases have been notified among Illawarra Shoalhaven residents. Despite increased testing in NSW, testing numbers have plateaued in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. <b>Please continue to encourage vigilance in testing anyone with even mild symptoms.</b>
Screening staff and patients	All staff and patients should be screened every day prior to entering your practice. <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 or Victoria in last 14 days?</li> <li>visited any of the <b>NSW COVID-19 case locations</b>, on dates/ times indicated?</li> </ul> <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw">https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw</a> <b>UPDATED</b>
RACGP resources	Subscribe to weekly national COVID-19 updates for GPs: <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/using-our-websites/subscriptions/subscribe-to-covid-19-weekly-updates-for-gps">https://www.health.gov.au/using-our-websites/subscriptions/subscribe-to-covid-19-weekly-updates-for-gps</a> RACGP COVID-19 portal: <a href="https://www.racgp.org.au/coronavirus">https://www.racgp.org.au/coronavirus</a> Preparing for Telehealth: <a href="https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/make-it-happen/telehealth/telehealth-for-nsw-health-clinicians">https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/make-it-happen/telehealth/telehealth-for-nsw-health-clinicians</a>
Testing locations	Where do I get tested for COVID-19? <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics">https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics</a> ; <a href="https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/public-health-unit/infectious-diseases/covid-19-latest-advice-and-resources-4">https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/public-health-unit/infectious-diseases/covid-19-latest-advice-and-resources-4</a>
ISLHD visiting hours	11am-1pm & 5-7pm. 1 visitor per session per patient (& up to 1 child). Various exemptions apply – see ISLHD website: <a href="https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/public-health-unit/infectious-diseases/covid-19-latest-advice-and-resources-0">https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/public-health-unit/infectious-diseases/covid-19-latest-advice-and-resources-0</a>

#### Public Health Unit Contacts

Statewide PHU number	1300 066 055
Wollongong PHU	02 4221 6700; AH 02 4222 5000 (Wollongong hospital - ask for Public Health Officer on call)

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

Novel point-of-care test accuracy <b>NEW</b>	What is the accuracy of rapid, point-of-care antigen and molecular-based tests for the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection? Promising results from rapid molecular-based tests. RT-PCR is still the reference standard. <a href="https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.3282/full">https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.3282/full</a>
JAMA <b>NEW</b>	“Sensible Medicine” during the time of a pandemic. Balancing the desire for rapid acceleration in research and interventions, with essential academic scepticism. <a href="https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2772072">https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2772072</a>
Impacts on Trauma Presentations in NSW <b>NEW</b>	Royal North Shore and John Hunter Hospital have conducted retrospective analyses showing how the COVID-19-related lockdown measures and social distancing have seen an overall decrease in volume of trauma cases: <a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ans.16375">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ans.16375</a> <a href="https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2020/effect-covid-19-social-restrictions-major-trauma-volumes-and-resource-utilisation">https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2020/effect-covid-19-social-restrictions-major-trauma-volumes-and-resource-utilisation</a>
The Journal of Medical Ethics <b>NEW</b>	An interesting article that discusses the rights and duties of doctors during a pandemic, viewed from various perspectives. <a href="https://jme.bmj.com/content/early/2020/10/15/medethics-2020-106266#T1">https://jme.bmj.com/content/early/2020/10/15/medethics-2020-106266#T1</a>
<b>National</b>	
CDNA National COVID-19 Guidelines (COVID-19)	CDNA National COVID-19 Guidelines V3.9 (updated 9 October 2020) – Latest revisions related to: clinical presentation (atypical symptoms include chest pain, diarrhoea and conjunctivitis);



'SoNG') & NSW Appendix	contact management; assessing health care worker exposure in the context of PPE use; contact tracing in high risk settings; contingency strategies for aged and healthcare workforce: <a href="https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm">https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm</a>
	NSW Appendix to 'SoNG' (last update 14 September 2020): <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/controlguideline/Pages/novel-coronavirus.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/controlguideline/Pages/novel-coronavirus.aspx</a>
Australian Government Department of Health <b>NEW</b>	A series to update general practitioners on the COVID-19 response: Latest recorded 8 <sup>th</sup> October: <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/resources/webinars/covid-19-response-update-for-gps-8-october">https://www.health.gov.au/resources/webinars/covid-19-response-update-for-gps-8-october</a> Next webinar will be held on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of October, register <a href="#">here</a> .
National COVID-19 clinical evidence taskforce <b>UPDATED</b>	Links to evidence-based 'living guidelines' and flowcharts on clinical management: <a href="https://covid19evidence.net.au/">https://covid19evidence.net.au/</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="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-web-resources">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-web-resources</a>
Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety	Aged care and COVID-19: a special report: <a href="https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/aged-care-and-covid-19-special-report">https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/aged-care-and-covid-19-special-report</a>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Health	NACCHO (National Aboriginal peak body): COVID-19 clinical and promotional resources and advice: <a href="https://www.naccho.org.au/home/aboriginal-health-alerts-coronavirus-covid-19/">https://www.naccho.org.au/home/aboriginal-health-alerts-coronavirus-covid-19/</a>
Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infection Disease Emergencies	APPRISE is a Centre of Research Excellence which develops research and evidence to inform Australia's capacity to prepare, respond and recover from infectious diseases. Link to the APPRISE large reliable source of research and resource links, including evidence reviews and research papers, dashboards and tools: <a href="https://www.appraise.org.au/covid-19/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/">https://www.appraise.org.au/covid-19/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/</a>
<b>NSW</b>	
Agency for Clinical Innovation	Links to the Critical Intelligence Unit for rapid, evidence-based advice, including daily digests of new evidence/ reports, and for other information to support 'communities of practice' in specific clinical areas: <a href="https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19">https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19</a>
Clinical Excellence Commission	Link to COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control resources page with resources for health and other workers in NSW: <a href="http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/keep-patients-safe/COVID-19">http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/keep-patients-safe/COVID-19</a>
Self-isolation guidelines <b>UPDATED</b>	<b>Suspected:</b> <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-suspected.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-suspected.aspx</a> ; <b>Confirmed:</b> <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-confirmed.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-confirmed.aspx</a> ; <b>Close contact:</b> <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-contacts.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-contacts.aspx</a>
<b>International</b>	
Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine	Links to Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service page including rapid evidence reviews, data analysis and thought-provoking writing: <a href="https://www.cebm.net/oxford-covid-19-evidence-service/">https://www.cebm.net/oxford-covid-19-evidence-service/</a>
WHO COVID-19 Health Systems Response Monitor	HSRM collects and organises information on how countries' health systems are responding - currently includes information for most of the countries in Europe: <a href="https://covid19healthsystem.org/mainpage.aspx">https://covid19healthsystem.org/mainpage.aspx</a>

**COVID-19 statistics and reports **UPDATED****

NSW COVID-19 updates & case statistics (& by LHD, LGA)	<a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/latest-updates.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/latest-updates.aspx</a> <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-nsw.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-nsw.aspx</a>
John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center	<a href="https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data">https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data</a>