

COVID-19 cases UPDATED	<p>Please find weekly epidemiological report for the Illawarra Shoalhaven attached, and NSW reports here: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/weekly-reports.aspx and https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/latest-updates.aspx and https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-nsw.aspx</p> <p>Recent events in South Australia are a good reminder that even though we are at the stage of very low (and potentially no) community transmission in NSW, we still need to maintain our COVID-19 vigilance and keep a very low threshold for testing patients, even with only very mild symptoms.</p> <p>Last week an astute junior doctor in an Adelaide ED potentially averted a major COVID-19 outbreak, when she noticed her patient had a mild cough and took a COVID-19 swab (see: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-21/sa-coronavirus-outbreak-detected-by-junior-doctor/12907610)</p> <p>NSW has had 28 days of no locally acquired cases with an unknown source (i.e. not 'mystery cases' suggestive of undetected community transmission) and 18 days of no other locally acquired cases. In the Illawarra Shoalhaven we have now had more than five months of no locally acquired cases with an unknown source and nearly 3 months with no other locally acquired cases. Meanwhile overseas returnees with COVID-19 +ve tests are increasing.</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"> • cold or flu like symptoms or loss of taste/ smell? • contact with COVID-19 case? or return from overseas or Victoria in last 14 days? • visited any COVID-19 case locations, on dates/ times indicated? <p>https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw UPDATED</p>
RACGP resources	<p>Subscribe to weekly national COVID-19 updates for GPs: https://www.health.gov.au/using-our-websites/subscriptions/subscribe-to-covid-19-weekly-updates-for-gps</p> <p>RACGP COVID-19 portal: https://www.racgp.org.au/coronavirus</p>
Testing locations	<p>Where do I get tested for COVID-19? https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics</p>
ISLHD visiting hours	<p>11am-1pm & 5-7pm. Various conditions and exemptions apply – see ISLHD website: https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/public-health-unit/infectious-diseases/covid-19-latest-advice-and-resources-0</p>

Public Health Unit Contacts

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

COVID-19 new research, evidence and guidance

Viral load dynamics, shedding duration and infectiousness (Lancet Microbe) NEW	<p>Systematic review and meta-analysis concluded that although SARS-CoV-2 RNA shedding in respiratory and stool samples can be prolonged (up to 83 days in Upper RT, 59 days Lower RT, 126 days stools), duration of viable virus is relatively short-lived (no detected live virus beyond day 9), and viral load in URT peaks in first week of illness:</p> <p>https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanmic/article/PIIS2666-5247(20)30172-5/fulltext</p>
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Clinical practice update (BMJ)	Clinical practice update which synthesises latest evidence on virology, transmission, and pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2 https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m3862
National	
CDNA National COVID-19 Guidelines (COVID-19 'SoNG') & NSW Appendix	CDNA National COVID-19 Guidelines V3.10 (28 October 2020): https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm NSW Appendix to 'SoNG' (16 September 2020): https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/controlguideline/Pages/novel-coronavirus.aspx
Australian Government Department of Health – GP webinar series & ATAGI (Immunisation advisory group)	Webinar series to update GPs and other primary care practitioners on COVID-19 (Latest update 19 November 2020): https://www.health.gov.au/resources/webinars Link to Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) COVID-19 Working Group (provides advice to Health Minister) including ATAGI publications: https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi-covid-19-working-group NEW
National COVID-19 clinical evidence taskforce	Links to evidence-based 'living guidelines' and flowcharts on clinical management: https://covid19evidence.net.au/
Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Health Care	Links to COVID-19 evidence and guidance from organisations in Australia and across global community: https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-web-resources
Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Health	NACCHO (National Aboriginal peak body): COVID-19 clinical and promotional resources and advice: https://www.naccho.org.au/home/aboriginal-health-alerts-coronavirus-covid-19/
Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infection Disease Emergencies	Link to the APPRISE large reliable source of research and resource links, including evidence reviews and research papers, dashboards and tools: https://www.apprise.org.au/covid-19/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/
NSW	
Agency for Clinical Innovation UPDATED	Links to the Critical Intelligence Unit for rapid, evidence-based advice, including daily digests of new EVIDENCE, and for other information to support TELEHEALTH and COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE in 12 clinical areas (including primary care): https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19
Clinical Excellence Commission UPDATED	Link to COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control resources page with resources for health and other workers in NSW: http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/keep-patients-safe/COVID-19
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: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/isolation-guidelines.aspx
International	
Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine	Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service page includes links to rapid evidence reviews, data analysis and thought-provoking writing: https://www.cebm.net/oxford-covid-19-evidence-service/
WHO COVID-19 Health Systems Response Monitor	HSRM collects and organises information on how countries' health systems are responding: https://covid19healthsystem.org/mainpage.aspx
John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center	JHCRC incorporates analysis, data and facts from experts across Johns Hopkins University https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data