

COVID-19 cases in NSW	<p>Please find the weekly epidemiological report for the Illawarra Shoalhaven attached, and NSW here https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Documents/covid-19-surveillance-report-20200919.pdf</p> <p>This week has seen no new cases in the Illawarra Shoalhaven area and very low levels of community transmission in Sydney. Testing numbers have declined in recent weeks and NSW Health is appealing to the community to come forward for testing right away if you have a runny nose or scratchy throat, cough, fever or other symptoms that could be COVID-19. Please continue to encourage testing in anyone with even mild symptoms.</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"> • Have you had any cold or flu like symptoms or loss of taste/ smell or do you feel unwell today? • In the last 2 weeks have you been in contact with someone who has COVID-19? Or returned from overseas or Victoria? • Have you visited any of these locations in NSW, on dates/ times indicated? <p>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 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> <p>Preparing for Telehealth: https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/make-it-happen/telehealth/telehealth-for-nsw-health-clinicians</p>
Testing	<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. 1 visitor per session per patient. Various exemptions apply – see ISLHD website</p>

Public Health Unit Contacts

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

COVID-19 new research, evidence and guidance

Emergence of parallel public health issues IN THE TIME OF covid-19 NEW	<p>Bowel Cancer Screening: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/modelled-analysis-of-hypothetical-impacts-of-covid-19-related-disruptions-to-the-national-bowel-cancer-screening-program</p> <p>Opioids and substance use: https://www.nccmt.ca/uploads/media/media/0001/02/3bb7203c61163ba3aceca1f88d49e81cc837f2c1.pdf</p> <p>Intimate partner violence: https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2024046?query=featured coronavirus</p>
Possibility of false negatives with standard testing (RT-PCR) NEW	<p>False negative rate highest within the first 4 days of infection, whereas, symptom onset is often on day 5. If symptoms develop even within a day of a negative test result, it is important to re-test without delay and continue to self-isolate. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7240870/</p>



Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander COVID messaging NEW	Aboriginal peak bodies: How to keep our mob safe using face masks https://www.naccho.org.au/how-to-keep-our-mob-safe-using-face-masks/
"The New Normal": Think piece from the British Medical Journal NEW	An open letter to the UK's chief medical officers expressing caution at attempting a return to "normality" too quickly: https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2020/09/21/covid-19-an-open-letter-to-the-uks-chief-medical-officers/
Vaccine development	Nationally there are currently 5 COVID-19 vaccines in human clinical trials, 2 of these vaccines (Covax-2019 and SARS-CoV-2 S) are being developed and trialled in Australia.
Disorders of Post-Acute COVID-19 NEW	Neurocognitive function, psychiatric symptoms, and quality of life post- COVID-19 - ~60% of patients had some degree neurocognitive impairment and characteristics of anxiety, depression or PTSD were significantly higher than the population average: https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.23.20190090v1.full.pdf
CDNA National COVID-19 Guidelines (COVID-19 'SoNG') & NSW Appendix	https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm
CDNA National COVID-19 Guidelines (COVID-19 'SoNG') & NSW Appendix Agency for Clinical Innovation	CDNA Guidelines for Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/cdna-national-guidance-for-remote-aboriginaland-torres-strait-islander-communities-for-covid-19 NSW Appendix to 'SoNG': https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/controlguideline/Pages/novel-coronavirus.aspx
Agency for Clinical Innovation	Links to the Critical Intelligence Unit for rapid, evidence-based advice, including daily digests of new evidence/ reports/ reviews, and for other information to support 'communities of practice' in specific clinical areas: https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19
Clinical Excellence Commission	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
National COVID-19 clinical evidence taskforce	Links to evidence-based 'living guidelines' and flowcharts on clinical management: https://covid19evidence.net.au/ UPDATED
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
Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine	Links to Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service page including rapid evidence reviews, data analysis and thought-provoking writing: https://www.cebm.net/oxford-covid-19-evidence-service/
Self-isolation guidelines	Suspected: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-suspected.aspx ; Confirmed: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-confirmed.aspx ; Close contact: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-contacts.aspx

COVID-19 statistics and reports

Latest COVID-19 updates	https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/latest-updates.aspx
NSW COVID-19 case statistics (& by LHD, LGA)	https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-nsw.aspx