

COVID-19 Primary Care Update No. 22

General Practice Liaison Network, Healthcare Improvement Unit

Friday 27 March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Epidemiology

- Queensland COVID-19 epidemiological information will now only be released once a day to ensure clear and consistent communication;
- On 27 March 2020 there were 493 confirmed cases in Queensland

New guidance

- RANZCO published a position statement, 'COVID-19: Practical guidance for general practitioners performing eye examinations' (attached) and link:
<file:///C:/Users/Patricia/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/VMQ9IWOV/RANZCO%20COVID-19%20Practical%20Guidance%20for%20GPs%20performing%20eye%20examinations.pdf>

Updates

- The Queensland Government will be publishing regular COVID-19 updates that will be shared in these e-mails. The first one (attached) was published on 26 March 2020 at 19:00
- The CDNA COVID-19 Guideline was updated on 26 March 2020 to include advice for 'probable cases' throughout the document:
[https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/7A8654A8CB144F5FCA2584F8001F91E2/\\$File/interim-COVID-19-SoNG-v2.4.pdf](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/7A8654A8CB144F5FCA2584F8001F91E2/$File/interim-COVID-19-SoNG-v2.4.pdf)
- The Health Consumers Councils of Australia made a Joint Media Statement on 26 March 2020, calling for a nation-wide lockdown (attached).

New travel restrictions to remote areas

- Travel restrictions to remote areas commenced 26 March 2020 at 23:59.
- Anyone wishing to enter designated areas will need to self-isolate for 14 days before they can enter. This is a requirement that will be made by the Minister for Health under the Commonwealth's Biosecurity Act 2015 and includes residents of communities in these areas.
- The areas where restrictions apply will be communicated by the State and Territory Governments prior to commencement. There will be exemptions to the travel restrictions for people entering to supply and deliver essential services.
- People already in remote communities should stay there unless it is essential to leave for medical treatment.
- Information relevant to Indigenous communities is being posted on www.niaa.gov.au and www.indigenous.gov.au

Practical tip about PPE

- A colleague from Mackay shared the following: 'With the closures of beauty salons e.g. nails, waxing, tanning etc a local GP practice reached out to these services within their area via Facebook seeking their assistance with donations of their gloves and masks. The practice has

been overwhelmed by the response and if they continue to receive supplies were going to share with other practices in need.'

Resources

- VTC is becoming the new normal for many of us; Project ECHO has years of experience in successfully using VTC and use the attached etiquette guide (thanks Dana)
- MindSpot published 10 psychological tips for coping with COVID-19 that fits on one (double-sided) A4: https://mindspot.org.au/assets/pdf/10_Tips_for_Coping_with_Infectious_Diseases.pdf.
- Practice Managers may be interested in the 'Practice THAT!' podcast series: <https://soundcloud.com/practicethat>

Literature

- Hassan et al recently published a review of COVID-19 – attached for interest
- Greenhalgh et al recently published 'COVID-19: a remote assessment in primary care' in the BMJ. There is a nice figure summarizing remote consultation steps and processes on page 5 (attached): <https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/368/bmj.m1182.full.pdf>

Best Wishes,

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About this Document:

- This document was an e-mail sent to a wide range of primary care staff and clinicians. The content is related to COVID-19 and the Queensland response and is intended for the free use and wide dissemination by the recipients or anyone else who access this webpage
- Every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date. If you become aware of any issues, please notify us so we can amend our documents
- Please provide any feedback or contact us using our e-mail COVID19-PC@health.qld.gov.au. Please note that the inbox is not continuously monitored, and we may not be able to respond to every message.