

# COVID-19 Primary Care Update No. 26

General Practice Liaison Network, Healthcare Improvement Unit

Wednesday 01 April 2020

Dear Colleagues,

## Epidemiology

- On 1 April 2020 there were 4707 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, with 781 in Queensland
- There are seven (7) patients in Queensland currently on a ventilator, with a further two (2) patients in an Intensive Care Unit receiving non-invasive ventilation.
- Nationwide, there have been 20 deaths, including three Queenslanders.
- More than 250,000 tests have been conducted across Australia, including more than 49,000 tests in Queensland.
- The 'doubling rate' has moved from 3 days to 9-10

## Resources

- SBS have translated important coronavirus info into 63 languages: <https://www.sbs.com.au/language/coronavirus> (thanks Laura!)
- 'Don't bring it home' – A great single page developed by our New Zealand colleagues with practical advice for healthcare staff and clinicians to help protect their families: <https://www.asms.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Morgan-Cavalle-Covid-advice.jpg>

## Medication and prescribing

- The '[Guideline for ethical prescribing for self and others in the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)' and '[Principles of ethical prescribing for self and others in the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)' have been endorsed by a panel of consumers, clinicians (including members of the Queensland Clinical Senate and State-wide Clinical Networks) and the Pandemic Health Response Implementation Advisory Group. Both documents are attached and have relevance in primary care too.

## COVID-19 and pregnancy – important update about GDM

- Queensland Health published updated recommendations for gestational diabetes mellitus screening and OGTT on 31 March 2020: [https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0022/950503/g-gdm.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/950503/g-gdm.pdf) (and attached). The document has 40 pages – for those that are time poor, pages one and two are especially important.

## Literature - \*HIGHLY RECOMMENDED\* (thanks Dianne)

- I thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Why you should ignore all that coronavirus-inspired productivity pressure' article by a/Prof Ahmad (Toronto), published 27 March 2020 immensely: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Why-You-Should-Ignore-All-That/248366?fbclid=IwAR1RyswPCcG8NEsdupZ2skxxFW5jQJ2qfwj77Mx7XJNPMerpJGHHJB9T6GA>. Two of my favourite passages: 'No sane person feels good during a global disaster, so be grateful for the discomfort of your sanity' and 'Know that you are not failing. Let go of all of the profoundly daft ideas you have about what you should be doing right now'

## RACFs

A number of experienced clinicians communicated specific concerns about the risk of COVID-19 transmission and susceptibility in the RACFs they work based on their personal observations with me over the last few days. The observations and recommendations were shared in the spirit of improvement, and is in no way intended to generalise or proportion blame.

### Observations:

- Widespread use of saline nebulisers for chesty coughs; lack of understanding that nebuliser use can spread infection.
- PPE. There are no masks available for purchase and supplies have run out; Barrier nursing is with plastic apron and gloves.
- Social distancing: Work areas are congested with shared keyboards and no attempt to reduce spread from staff member to staff member.

### Recommendations

- Raise awareness of the potential risk of nebuliser use to RACFs
- RACFs are informed where and how to obtain masks (and other PPE)
- RACFs are supported to ensure suitable work environments, social distancing and regular cleaning of work surfaces

### Inspirational quote for the day

*'Every day as the scale of this present coal-black cloud grows across the globe, it's harder to spot a silver lining, but perhaps in [Australia] it might be this; that in a time of crisis we formed a national decision-making body roughly half of which came from each of our two major parties, and decisions were made that were well outside the orthodox political comfort zone of the people making them, and that **some loud voices shut up for a minute, in recognition that the situation was bigger than their own need never to give an inch.**'*

The rest of the article is pretty good too! <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-31/coronavirus-scott-morrison-consensus-jobkeeper/12106334>

Best Wishes,

Carl

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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](mailto: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.

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