Thursday 07 May 2020

Good afternoon colleagues,

COVID-19 testing and notification Update

- Public Health Alert no 13 was published on 7 May 2020 (attached). It provides clarification about COVID-19 testing of ambulatory patients and notification:
  - Suspected, Probable and Confirmed cases of COVID-19 are notifiable in Queensland.
  - Confirmed cases will be notified from the laboratory testing, but clinical information from primary care medical services are considered valuable for integrating the clinical information around these cases.
  - Patients with acute respiratory infections not fulfilling epidemiological criteria who are tested under enhanced testing, are not suspected case and do not need to be notified unless subsequently becoming a confirmed case.

PPE

We have had several queries whether all PPE should be changed after each clinical encounter in Respiratory Clinics. The State-wide Public Health IMT kindly provided the following, practical response:

- ‘Ultimately a risk assessment for each patient interaction should occur. At a minimum, gloves removed, apron removed (if applicable) and hand hygiene performed and new gloves and apron applied for the next patient encounter. Other PPE should be visually assessed for contamination and changed where required (i.e. visibly soiled or contaminated or damaged).’

Resources (thanks Jasmine!)

- Birdie’s Tree now includes a “Birdie and the Virus” e-book in which Birdie learns more about illness, why we can’t see our friends right now and how health care professionals play an important role in helping their patients get better. There’s even a catchy hand washing song.

COVIDSafe and behavioural economics

- So far, several million Australians have downloaded the COVIDSafe contact-tracing app. However, international experience suggests we will need ‘extra carrots’ if we are to achieve the desired goal. In this article, behavioural economists describe three types of nudges that spur

COVID-19 Recovery

- The Group-of-Eight (Go8) recently published a COVID-19 Roadmap to Recovery for Australia. They describe two potential options – an elimination and a controlled adaptation strategy. The two page snapshot is attached for interest, with more detailed documents on the webpage: https://go8.edu.au/research/roadmap-to-recovery.

COVID-19 and Nicotine

- A recent study from France suggested that ‘daily smokers have a very much lower probability of developing symptomatic or severe SARS-COV-2 infection’. A subsequent review concluded that this study ‘present weak evidence that is at odds with more established science’. In fact, the evidence-to-date indicates smokers have greater likelihood of severe illness and worse outcomes: https://exposetobacco.org/news/flawed-covid19-studies/?fbclid=IwAR2tkLrwBscUjCxxSR5vCpu5kQw8hNw-KNE98GSpxLCHZh-LM7P-Ws2HU4AQ

Educational events

- Selected local and national webinars scheduled for next week that may be of interest to you or your stakeholders. Please let us know if you have a no-cost COVID-19 related educational event that may be of interest to Queensland Primary Care:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Registration link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-May-20</td>
<td>8:00-</td>
<td>Project Echo</td>
<td>Supporting Kids and Family during and beyond COVID-19</td>
<td><a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/62FY2VP">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/62FY2VP</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>12-May-20</td>
<td>7:00-</td>
<td>RACGP QLD</td>
<td>COVID-19: How are you going?</td>
<td><a href="https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5422502579455843084">https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5422502579455843084</a></td>
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<td>7:20-</td>
<td>RACGP QLD</td>
<td>Pall Care Workforce Capacity Building: Self-care and Compassion</td>
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<td>AGPAL</td>
<td>COVID-19 Update and managing the patient who tests positive</td>
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<td>14-May-20</td>
<td>7:00-</td>
<td>RACGP WA</td>
<td>Managing your workforce in a changing environment</td>
<td><a href="https://racgp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cy1ahJz5STe3ZiR5zT0qmQ">https://racgp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cy1ahJz5STe3ZiR5zT0qmQ</a></td>
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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.

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Inspirational thought (thanks Michelle!)

‘If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a higher fence’ (Edwina Robertson)

Kind regards,

Carl

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