

 Tasmanian Government	THIS IS AN ALERT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALL DOCTORS IN THIS PRACTICE		
	Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit		
21 April 2020	No. of pages (incl. this page): 1	Phone: 1800 671 738	Fax: 6173 0821

## COVID-19 Update No. 38

This alert updates the 20 April 2020 COVID-19 ALERT.

- **The North-West remains a designated localised area with risk of community transmission.**
  - The North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) Emergency Department is open. Patients requiring a higher level of care than can be provided by the NWRH Emergency Department are being transferred to alternative hospitals.
  - The NWRH will open section by section as staff return from quarantine (dates vary depending on when their last shift worked) and the deep clean is completed. The North West Private Hospital (NWPH) remains closed.
  - **Patients in the NW or who have visited the NW in the past 14 days:** Test/refer for testing patients presenting with fever or acute respiratory infection, including cough, sore throat or shortness of breath. For patients who had recent contact with a known case or spent time (in any capacity) in the NWRH, NWPH, Mersey Community Hospital or Melaleuca Home for the Aged, refer for testing through THS Respiratory Clinics for timeliness of results.
  - **For patients who have not spent time in the North-West:** Continue to test or refer for testing patients who meet the criteria for testing, as per the Information for General Practice sheet (v12).
- 
- Please continue to instruct all patients tested for COVID-19 to self-isolate at home until results are provided.
  - As at 6:00 pm 20 April 2020, there have been 200 cases confirmed in Tasmania (127 in the North West) and 8 deaths (7 in the North West), including an additional 5 confirmed yesterday.
  - There are 1159 close contacts in isolation being monitored, of which 893 are staff of health/aged care facilities in the NW.
  - Please continue to provide negative test results to patients you test or refer for testing.
  - Confirmed cases are considered infectious for 48 hours before symptom onset and usually for 24 hours after resolution of symptoms.

### What to do:

- Continue to use the **COVID-19 GP Info Sheet V12** when assessing and managing patients with symptoms of COVID-19.

### Further information:

- For state updates go to [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au)
- For cases and testing data updates, go to [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/facts/cases-and-testing-updates](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/facts/cases-and-testing-updates)
- For national updates, go to [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)
- For PPE instructional videos for healthcare workers, go to [www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth)
- For COVID-19 referral pathways, referral forms and general practice preparedness go to [Tasmanian HealthPathways](http://TasmanianHealthPathways)
- For additional clinical guidelines and decision flowcharts, go to the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce at [www.covid19evidence.net.au](http://www.covid19evidence.net.au)

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support.

Dr Julie Graham, Specialist Medical Advisor, Public Health Services.