

 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		
23 April 2020	No. of pages (incl. this page): 1	Phone: 1800 671 738	Fax: 6173 0821

COVID-19 Update No. 40

This alert updates the 22 April 2020 COVID-19 ALERT.

IMPORTANT: For patients in the North West (and who have travelled through the NW at any time in the past 14 days) please refer for testing ANY patients with ANY cold or flu-like symptoms (including mild), eg fever, rhinorrhea, cough, sore or itchy throat, shortness of breath.

- Increased testing capacity is available statewide and testing criteria have broadened.
- Statewide: Please refer for testing any patients with ANY cold or flu-like symptoms (including mild), eg fever, rhinorrhea, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.
- Treat all patients being tested as suspect cases and instruct them to remain in isolation until they have their results.
- For patients who are very high, high risk or moderate risk due to potential exposure (see the attached GP Info sheet v13, updated), please refer to THS Respiratory Clinics for testing, for timeliness of results.
- There have been changes in THS Respiratory Clinic locations – see attached list of THS Respiratory Clinics.

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- The North-West remains a designated localised area with risk of community transmission.
 - The North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) Emergency Department is open.
 - The North West Private Hospital (NWPH) remains closed.
 - Please continue to instruct all patients tested for COVID-19 to self-isolate at home until results are provided.
 - As at 6:00 pm 22 April 2020, there have been 205 cases confirmed in Tasmania (132 in the North West) and 8 deaths (7 in the North West), with four new cases confirmed in the North West.
 - There are 895 close contacts in isolation being monitored, of which 700 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:

- Use the **COVID-19 GP Info Sheet V13 (updated)** when assessing and managing patients with symptoms of COVID-19.

Further information:

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

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support.

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