

5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Doctor,

**RE: GP COVID-19 Respiratory Clinic at Derwent Park**

In collaboration with the Commonwealth Government and Primary Health Tasmania, we have established an [Australian Government funded COVID-19 GP respiratory clinic](#) to ensure people in Southern Tasmania have access to COVID-19 testing services and assessment during what continues to be a challenging time for all.

**What is this respiratory clinic for?**

Hobart Respiratory Clinic is a doctor-led respiratory clinic designed to safely assess and test patients with mild-to-moderate respiratory or other symptoms of COVID-19. The hospital Emergency Department will continue to manage patients with severe symptoms.

**Who can attend the respiratory clinic?**

Hobart Respiratory Clinic is available to any person who has not previously tested positive to COVID-19 and is showing mild-to-moderate respiratory or other symptoms of possible COVID-19, including:

- fever
- stuffy or runny nose
- sneezing
- sore or scratchy throat
- cough
- muscle aches and pains
- shortness of breath
- Loss of sense of taste or smell.

**Is it safe for me or my patients to attend the respiratory clinic?**

Hobart Respiratory Clinic is safe to visit. We ensure strict infection control guidelines are met, including the thorough cleaning of rooms in between patients to minimise any risk of cross-infection. We also restrict the number of patients inside the facility at any given time to ensure minimal interaction with other patients experiencing similar symptoms.

The efficient and effective use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is of utmost importance. Our doctors, staff, and contractors (including commercial cleaners) have also completed PPE and infection control training for the protection of themselves and our patients.

**When is the respiratory clinic open?**

Hobart Respiratory Clinic is open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. We expect the respiratory clinic will operate for a period of three months, which is subject to change depending on the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Where is Hobart Respiratory Clinic located?**

The respiratory clinic is located inside the After Hours Doctor clinic building at 252 Main Road, Derwent Park, TAS 7009.



**Is there any cost for this service?**

There is no cost for people to attend the clinic. Appointment bookings are essential.

**How do patients book an appointment?**

Patients can book an appointment by visiting [www.hobartrespiratoryclinic.com.au](http://www.hobartrespiratoryclinic.com.au) or by calling us on 6165 2367 (online bookings are preferred). A GP referral is not necessary.

**What do my patients need to know before attending the respiratory clinic?**

- Ensure they bring photo identification.
- When a patient arrives, they are to remain in their car or wait outside of the clinic and call 6165 2367 to let us know they have arrived.
- We will call them back when the doctor is ready to see them.
- If they begin to experience severe symptoms, please call 000 immediately or attend the nearest hospital emergency department.

**What should they expect during their COVID-19 assessment?**

- Once inside the clinic, they will be asked to put on a mask to cover their nose and mouth.
- They will then be taken into a consult room where they will be assessed for COVID-19 by a doctor.
- If a test is required according to State guidelines, a nasal and throat swab for COVID-19 will be taken.
- These samples will then be sent to a laboratory for testing.

**What should they do after their assessment?**

- They will be required to self-isolate until they receive their test result. This may take a few days but is very important so that they do not spread the infection to others.
- If their symptoms get worse while they're waiting for their result, they should call an ambulance or go to the nearest emergency department and let them know that they're waiting for test results for COVID-19.
- If the test result is positive, they will receive a call from Public Health Services explaining what they need to do next. This typically involves self-isolation and clinical monitoring.
- If the result is negative, we will let the patient know either via phone or SMS. If the patient is still feeling unwell, they will be encouraged to book an appointment with their regular GP.

**Where can I find further information?**

Please visit [www.hobartrespiratoryclinic.com.au](http://www.hobartrespiratoryclinic.com.au) for further information about this service. The Primary Health Tasmania website also has resources available to GPs to help explain their GP-led respiratory clinics across the State. This information is available at <https://www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/gp-led-respiratory-clinics/>

**Who do I contact if I have questions?**

If you have any queries in relation to Hobart Respiratory Clinic, please contact Eliza Taylor, Group Practice Manager via email at [eliza.taylor@bettermedical.com.au](mailto:eliza.taylor@bettermedical.com.au)

Kind regards,

Jeremy Stones  
Better Medical, Chief Executive Officer