

From: lksfong@gmail.com
Subject: [HunterGP] COVID19 - HNELHD update 22/4/20 - +0, 277 Total, 31 ?contact, ?0 under lx; elective surgery; ED expansion; temp checks
Date: 22 April 2020 at 5:27 pm
To: huntergp@googlegroups.com



COVID-19 UPDATE 50: Wednesday, 22 April 2020 4:35pm

Dear Staff

As part of our ongoing commitment to keep you updated, here is the latest information on confirmed COVID-19 cases across the District:

According to our latest situation report, the total number of confirmed COVID cases in Hunter New England remains at 277.

Age	Female	Male	Total
0-9	1	1	2
10-19	9	4	13
20-29	31	19	50
30-39	17	17	34
40-49	8	8	16
50-59	28	17	45
60-69	33	21	54
70-79	24	22	46
80-89	10	7	17
90-100	0	0	0
Total	161	116	277

Overseas travel	207
Locally Acquired (within Australia), contact with a confirmed case	39
Locally Acquired (within Australia), no contact identified	31
Total	277

Currently 8 patients are receiving care from Hospital in the Home services, and six COVID-19 patients are being cared for in our hospitals.

Hospital	ICU	Acute Ward
John Hunter	1	3
Calvary Mater Newcastle	0	1

Belmont	0	1
Tamworth	0	0
Total	1	5

Across the District, 233 people have recovered. This number has decreased since yesterday's report, as one recovered case has been reclassified pending additional testing.

Tragically, four people from our District have died from complications related to COVID-19.

You may observe that the data provided in the staff update can differ slightly from the information released publically to the media and via our Facebook page. This is because the public data is reported at a particular point in time and aligned with the release of the NSW Ministry of Health state wide data on their website. Case numbers can also change as they undergo further investigation and review.

Elective surgery update

Yesterday the Government announced that health services could begin a gradual restart to elective surgery, with category two and some category three procedures able to go ahead in the coming weeks. We are currently working on the plan for our District, and awaiting further advice from the Ministry. I will share more information with you on this in the coming days.

John Hunter Hospital ED works to begin early

I am pleased to advise that works will commence earlier than expected for an interim expansion of the John Hunter Hospital ED, to assist in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. The early works come as part of the \$780 million John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct project, and will not impact the operation of the existing ED.

The District is working in conjunction with Health Infrastructure to provide an additional 12 beds and procedure room, which will be segregated from the current Department. The intention is that this will be used for the treatment of paediatric patients and will allow the existing ED more options and beds for managing expected surge with winter and COVID-19 response.

The works have commenced this week and will take around two months to complete.

Temperature checks and visitor screening at HNELHD sites

Following a directive from NSW Health, all inpatient and community health facilities across the District, should now be temperature checking and screening all staff, visitors and patients prior to entry.

All visitors, staff and patients will be required to enter and exit through primary entrances at each facility, while some entrances will remain closed until further notice. This is to ensure screening is as effective as possible.

You can expect to be asked a series of questions regarding history of symptoms and any

You can expect to be asked a series of questions regarding history of symptoms and any known contact with a positive COVID-19 case, as well as temperature testing via no touch thermometers.

These additional safety measures are to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable people, protect our health workforce and limit the spread of illness. I understand this may slow things down for staff arriving on shift, and I ask for your understanding and patience during this time.

Posters explaining the visitor screening is available via the [COVID-19 resources](#) section on the Intranet.

Stay updated

Stay up to date with our latest developments via the [HNE Health Facebook page](#) and the [HNE Health YouTube channel](#) as well as [Patientinfo.org.au](#)

This information can be shared with your networks, families and friends to help us spread these important messages to our wider communities.

Clinician-specific information related to COVID-19 is available at [COVID-19 Clinical Guidelines](#).

[Kind regards](#)

Michael DiRienzo

Chief Executive | **Hunter New England Local Health District**

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