


From: lksfong@gmail.com 
Subject: [HunterGP] COVID19 - HNELHD Update 28/4/20 - +1, 278 total
Date: 28 April 2020 at 5:01 pm
To: huntergp@googlegroups.com



COVID-19 UPDATE 54: Tuesday, 28 April 2020 4:25pm

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 is 278. This is one additional case of COVID-19 since our last update to staff yesterday.

Table 1: Confirmed cases by sex and age group			
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	34	21	55
70-79	24	22	46
80-89	10	7	17
90-100	0	0	0
Total	162	116	278

Table 2: Confirmed cases by source of infection	
Overseas travel	208
Locally Acquired (within Australia), contact with a confirmed case	40
Locally Acquired (within Australia), no contact identified	30
Total	278

Currently 12 patients are receiving care from Hospital in the Home services, and one COVID-19 patient is being cared for in our hospitals.

Hospital	ICU	Acute Ward
Belmont	0	1
Total	0	1

Across the District, 250 people have completed isolation requirements.

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.

MedApp for clinical staff

The mobile app MedApp is now available to all NSW Health clinical staff. You can download the app and register for easy, direct access to critical NSW Health COVID-19 response updates on your device, including:

- Key information around PPE
- Clinical Guidelines developed by NSW Health
- Important workforce updates, such as accessing accommodation and special leave
- What to do if you are concerned about potential exposure or are sick
- Wellbeing information

Clinical staff will be sent an SMS **today, 28 April** inviting them to download MedApp.

Once you've downloaded the app, you will need to register using your mobile number and NSW Health email address. A poster with step-by-step instructions can be found on our intranet [here](#). If you haven't received the SMS, you can also download and register using the following link <https://app.residentguide.co/ob3LJeXVN5>

If you're already using MedApp, you will now have access to the latest COVID-19 response material – simply select 'NSW Health' as your location in your profile. For more information, visit the [NSW Health intranet](#).

Staff accommodation update

As you know, as part of the response to COVID-19 the NSW Government has announced free hotel accommodation for frontline health staff.

Following the Government's announcement, we've undertaken some further planning and I'm pleased to say, I can now provide an update on how these arrangements will work.

The immediate focus will be:

- Health workers providing frontline health services including permanent, temporary, casual (with booked shifts) hospital, ambulance and community staff
- Visiting Medical Officers (while working for NSW Health)
- Staff who have contracted COVID-19
- Staff awaiting COVID-19 test results and/or are in self-isolation
- Frontline staff living with vulnerable high-risk family members
- Frontline staff working extended hours, short shift changes or extensive overtime due to COVID-19 workload
- Negative COVID-19 staff in close contact (living with) with a person who is COVID-19

positive

Staff will need to speak to their direct line manager to arrange accommodation.

More information on these arrangements can be found on the COVID-19 [Healthcare Worker Advice and Support page](#) on the intranet.

Elective surgery update

As I mentioned last week, the NSW Government has announced that health services could gradually recommence elective surgery, with category two and some category three procedures able to go ahead. We are currently working on the plan for our District, and awaiting further advice from the Ministry. I will share more information with you as these plans progress.

I understand that our patients have many questions about their surgery. If you are contacted by a patient seeking advice, please reassure them that elective surgery will be gradually reintroduced to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. Patients will be contacted directly when we are able to offer them a date for surgery.

Thank you letters

Staff at the Apple Charlestown store have written letters thanking our staff. A small sample of the letters can be found below:



You can read the letters in full [here](#).

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](#).

To view information on COVID-19 and other conditions, which is available to the primary care sector through collaboration with the HNECCPHN, please visit [HNE Community HealthPathways](#).

Kind regards

Michael DiRienzo

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

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