

From: lksfong@gmail.com
Subject: [HunterGP] COVID19 - HNELHD Update 5/5/20 - +0, 278 total; elective surgery update; Armidale/Tamworth testing hours
Date: 5 May 2020 at 5:03 pm
To: huntergp@googlegroups.com



COVID-19 UPDATE 59: Tuesday, 5 May 2020 4:55pm

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 278.

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

Hospital	ICU	Acute Ward
John Hunter	1	0
Belmont	0	1

Total	1	1
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Across the District, 260 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.

Elective surgery update

Hospitals across our District have begun to increase the availability of elective surgery in a safe and equitable way. We are taking a cautious approach to achieve this, without reducing COVID-19 preparedness, through the staged reintroduction of some category two and category three elective surgery procedures. These include endoscopic procedures, critical dental procedures, cancer screening programs, and procedures for children with urgent conditions or longer wait times.

Across the District, elective surgery is being reintroduced gradually to balance the needs of our patients, and the safety of our staff and the greater community. A staged reintroduction will ensure that adequate equipment, supplies and treatment spaces remain available for all patients, including those requiring COVID-19 treatment if required. Our plans are being reviewed weekly, and where possible, additional lists will recommence.

I understand that our patients will have many questions about their surgeries. If you are contacted by a patient seeking advice, please thank them for their patience, and reassure them that they will be contacted directly when we are able to offer them a date for surgery.

Tamworth and Armidale clinics extended

The Armidale and Tamworth COVID-19 clinics have again extended their operating hours, and will now be open until Friday 15 May. We will continue to monitor the demand for these clinics and will further extend hours if needed.

The Armidale drive through clinic is open from 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday. Those wishing to be tested must call 0427 923 080 within clinic operating hours to register. The clinic is in front of the old emergency department (accessed via the O’Dell Street entrance).

The Tamworth drive through clinic is open 9am to 4pm every day. Those wishing to be tested must call 1800 881 568 (during testing hours) to register. The clinic is set up in hospital carpark E on the corner of Johnston and Smith streets.

We have seen a great response to these clinics in our local communities, and we encourage people to get tested.

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](#).

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Kind regards

Michael DiRienzo

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

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