COVID-19 Update No. 106
This alert updates the 29 November 2021 COVID-19 Update.

TASMANIAN UPDATE - Testing Clinic Locations
Widespread testing of people with cold or flu-like symptoms (even mild) is vital to track and slow the spread of COVID-19. Private pathology providers have set up drive through clinics to manage and cope with the demands for testing, for travellers requiring a test and Tasmanians needing pre hospital testings and or general testings.

If you need to refer a patient to get a test, the below are a list of both drive through testing clinics and respiratory clinics.

- The following COVID-19 Testing Clinics are open,
  - COVID-19 Testing Clinic - Hobart Showgrounds - This clinic is recommended to get tested for domestic travel, note weekend hours apply Christmas/New Year period.
  - COVID-19 Testing Clinic - Hobart Mac Point – booking required
  - COVID-19 Testing Clinic - South Launceston - This clinic is recommended to get tested for domestic travel, note weekend hours apply Christmas/New Year period
  - COVID-19 Testing Clinic – Launceston – booking required
  - COVID-19 Testing Clinic – Devonport
  - COVID-19 Testing Clinic – Burnie - This clinic is recommended to get tested for domestic travel, note public holiday hours apply Christmas/New Year period.

- The following COVID-19 Respiratory Clinics in General Practice setting – require a booking.
  - Derwent Park Respiratory Clinic
  - Launceston Respiratory Clinic
  - St Helens Respiratory Clinic

Reminder - DIRECTION - Vaccination requirements for Certain Workers – No.10
- A person required to be sufficiently vaccinated in accordance with the direction must have received all vaccine doses before 8 January 2022 (the second dose must be no later than 7 January 2022).

COVID@home
- The Department of Health COVID@home program is now live.
- This program is for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and are well enough to isolate at home.
- Each individual will be monitored and cared for by the Department of Health including doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals.
- Information packages and monitoring kits will be delivered direct to the individual via courier.
- The COVID@home healthcare team will partner with GP’s and other community partners (who opt in) to provide additional support for individuals in their home.
• Under these arrangements, the COVID@home health care team will continue to manage the COVID related care for individuals and GPs and other community partners can opt in to provide additional care for COVID-positive individuals recovering at home.
• The COVID@home 1800 Number, 1800 973 363, will provide a ‘front door’ service for patients enrolled in the program to speak with a member of the COVID@home. It also provides GPs and health professional with a direct line into COVID@home team.
• For further information visit COVID@home program | Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Attached are fact sheets relating to the COVID@home program;

• Fact Sheet for the COVID@home program
• The COVID@home program Information for health professionals
• Determining the level of Risk for paediatric (under 16 years old) COVID@home patients
• Determining the level of Risk for adult (over 16 years old) COVID@home patients
• Program summary workflow
• COVID-19 Health Care

EXPOSURE SITES

• Keep up to date with public exposure sites in Tasmania to find out if there is a risk that you may have been exposed to COVID-19. Anyone who has spent time at any of the exposure site at the specified dates and times and have not been contacted by Public Health must isolate immediately and call the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 for further advice.
• As the situation is evolving, travellers should check the webpage regularly, monitor their health and call the Public Health Hotline to book a test if they have even mild symptoms.

TESTING

• Continue to encourage all staff and patients to get tested for COVID-19 if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms or loss of smell or taste.
• Keep up to date on our testing clinic locations and opening hours, including mobile testing clinics, at Testing for COVID-19 | Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

VACCINATION CENTRES

• The latest information about vaccination centres is available from Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
• To get a booster at a state-run clinic, eligible people should book an appointment by visiting Where to get a vaccine | Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or calling the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738.
• Details on third doses (boosters) can be found here.

RESTRICTIONS IN HOSPITALS

• Wearing face masks in hospitals, including public/private hospitals and day-procedure facilities, will continue to be required by all staff and visitors will also need to wear masks in an aged care facility also.
**WHAT TO DO**

- Ensure your COVID Safety Plan is up to date and all staff are aware of the actions they need to take. For more information go to [COVID-19 Case and Outbreak Management | Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)](https://www.health.tas.gov.au/COVID-19).

- Continue screen patients entering your practice for symptoms of COVID-19 and make sure everyone is registering their attendance through the Check in TAS App.

- Encourage all eligible patients to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Booster shots are now available 5 months after completing the primary course. Many clinics are now accepting walk-ins, and bookings can also be made via [Vaccination information | Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)](https://www.health.tas.gov.au/covid-19).

- Continue to test all patients with any COVID-19 symptoms in the past 7 days either at your office, by referring them to the GP-led respiratory clinics, or by calling the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738.

- There is a gap in vaccination coverage between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous people in Tasmania. Please consider proactively discussing vaccination with patients who identify as Aboriginal.

- For urgent queries about people who have arrived in Tasmania from high-risk areas or premises, contact the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 and ask for the COVID Clinical Nurse Consultant on-call.

- If you have any questions about this alert, please contact the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre at [covid.response@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:covid.response@health.tas.gov.au)

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Dr Julie Graham**

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