

 <p>Tasmanian Government</p>	<p>THIS IS AN ALERT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>Please distribute as soon as possible to all doctors and nurses in this practice.</p>		
	<p>Public Health Emergency Operations Centre</p>		
<p>7 September 2021</p>	<p>No. of pages (including this page): 2</p>	<p>Phone: 1800 671 738</p>	<p>Fax: 6173 0821</p>

COVID-19 Update No. 89

This alert updates the 27 August COVID-19 Update.

Hay fever update

- High to extreme pollen counts in the north and the south of the state have led to an increase in hay fever symptoms amongst Tasmanians.
- Public information about hay fever is being shared via social media and www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au.
- Patients with symptoms of hay fever, no matter how mild, are being asked to:
 - get tested for COVID-19 and stay at home until they return a negative result
 - consult their GP about how to optimise control of their symptoms.
- Where hay fever is hard to control in an individual patient and all the below conditions are met, consider providing the patient a certificate stating they can attend work/study while experiencing hay fever symptoms.
- Conditions for providing a certificate include:
 - the patient has been tested for COVID-19 while they had those symptoms and the result was negative
 - the patient has seen a doctor for help in managing the symptoms of hay fever
 - COVID-19 is not spreading in the region where the patient lives, works or studies
 - the patient is not at increased risk of having COVID-19 because of recent travel to areas where COVID-19 is spreading or recent close contact with known case/s
 - the patient agrees to get retested for COVID-19 if new symptoms develop
 - the patient agrees to see a doctor again for review and consideration of re-testing if symptoms continue for more than two weeks.

Testing:

- In the current national environment, it is critical that you continue to test, or refer for testing, all patients with COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild., This can be arranged either at your clinic, by referring them to the GP-led respiratory clinics, or by calling the Public Health Hotline on **1800 671 738**.
- People in the North and South of the state can make a booking via the online registration form available at at <https://covidtestbooking.health.tas.gov.au/>

What to do:

- Continue to screen all patients, staff and visitors for COVID-19 symptoms and check that they have not attended any of the high risk areas or premises at the specific dates and times listed on www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travelalert before entering the clinic.
 - Instruct any patients who have been at a high-risk area or premises at the dates and times listed to quarantine immediately and call the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 for advice.
 - Ensure that your Check in TAS QR code is clearly displayed in prominent and accessible locations to support contact tracing if a COVID-19 case occurs in Tasmania.
 - If you have any questions about this alert, please contact the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre at covid.response@health.tas.gov.au
 - For urgent queries, call the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 and ask for the PHEOC Clinical Nurse Consultant on call.
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Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dr Julie Graham

**Deputy Director of Public Health
Public Health Emergency Operations Centre**