

Message from the
Chief Executive
COVID-19 UPDATE



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

NSW Health has issued updated COVID-19 Workforce advice regarding staff returning from overseas, staff illness and official travel arrangements.

Staff returning from overseas

From 16 March 2020, all healthcare workers, staff, healthcare students and volunteers returning from overseas must:

- contact their supervisor directly for advice prior to returning to work
- **self-isolate at home other than for seeking individual medical care for 14 days from the day of return from overseas**
- if fever or respiratory illness (even if mild) occur, seek medical attention as soon as possible

This advice also applies retrospectively. For staff who returned to Australia from overseas between **2 March 2020 and 15 March 2020**, please contact your manager.

In settings where the absence of the healthcare worker will have a significant impact on health services a case by case risk assessment should be undertaken. A standardised risk assessment template and checklist is being developed and will be available on the SESLHD COVID-19 intranet page by the end of this week. In the interim please escalate through your management structure to your General Manager or District Executive.

Staff with symptoms of respiratory illness

Healthcare workers with acute respiratory illness should not work while they are symptomatic. This includes mild respiratory symptoms or recent onset and unexplained fever.

- Healthcare workers who have **fever OR respiratory symptoms** must immediately self-isolate and should not return to duties until medically assessed.
- Healthcare workers who have **fever AND respiratory symptoms** must immediately self-isolate and should not return to duties until medically tested and cleared from COVID-19.

In the event of experiencing respiratory symptoms, staff should contact their supervisor and seek clinical assessment as soon as possible. If a staff member requires testing for COVID-19 then it is expected **they** will remain isolated and **not return to work until cleared of COVID-19**.

Staff are encouraged to present to the following sites for assessment and, if required, testing -

Hospital: Prince of Wales Hospital

Days/Time: 7 days a week, 10am to 8pm

Location: Building 14B, Ground floor, Avoca St, Randwick NSW 2031 (formerly Diabetes Centre, opposite St Paul Street). Dedicated car parking available adjoining this clinic for patients, access via Barker St vehicle entry.

Contact No: 9382 2710

Hospital: St George Hospital

Days/Time: 24/7

Location: St George Hospital Emergency Department until SGH COVID-19/Flu Assessment Clinic is initiated on Thursday 19 March

Contact No: ED triage

Hospital: The Sutherland Hospital

Days/Time: 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm

Location: Ground Floor, Old Emergency Department – enter via Kareena Road entrance

Contact No: 9540 8998 or extension 38998

Hospital: Sydney / Sydney Eye Hospital

Days/Time: 24/7

Location: Sydney / Sydney Eye Hospital Emergency Department

Contact No: ED triage

Leave Due to Illness

For staff who are unable to work because they are sick due to COVID-19 or any other reason, current sick leave entitlements and conditions apply.

Official Travel, including TESL

The suspension of official travel, including TESL, has been extended to include domestic travel. No overseas travel will be approved and domestic travel has been restricted to essential travel only. If official overseas travel, including TESL, was booked and approved prior to 5 March 2020 and if the Government Smartraveller advice indicates 'do not travel', 'reconsider your need to travel' or 'exercise a high degree of caution', (including but not limited to due to COVID-19) travel is to be cancelled.

I want to acknowledge the continued hard work of all our teams through this time. These measures have been designed to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on our teams and have been put in place to protect the wellbeing of all staff during this time.

Further details can be found on the NSW Health

website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-healthcare-staff.aspx>.

Regards,

Tobi Wilson

Chief Executive



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