

Thursday, 1 October 2020

COVID-19 Testing Blitz Helps Keep Community Open

A local COVID-19 Screening and Assessment Testing Blitz is being launched by local health services to encourage people to get COVID-19 tested.

“Regionally we have all worked hard to beat this terrible virus,” said Northern District Community Health (NDCH) CEO Mandy Hutchinson. “We must keep testing all people with symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild they might be, so that our community can stay open. It’s important we prevent even one case from spreading to other people.”

Ms. Hutchinson said that 80% of people with COVID-19 experience only mild symptoms. “So they are often well enough to be going to work, socialising and enjoying the lifted restrictions,” Ms. Hutchinson said. “This is a problem because if they do have COVID-19 they could be spreading it to other people. And while the symptoms might be mild for them, they could be deadly for others.”

Health services across the three Local Government Areas of Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra are joining forces from 5th – 30th October to roll out the testing blitz. The blitz includes more testing locations, easier access to testing for people, and more people being tested.

Some of the testing clinics require people to call ahead and book and others are simply drop in on the day. Bendigo Health are also lending a hand to the blitz with their COVID-19 Rapid Response Testing Team running some of the clinics. Generally people will know their results in two days.

“As we celebrate the drop in COVID-19 numbers in Victoria after months of having our lives dramatically disrupted, we want people to know that they will be supported by our staff when getting tested,” Ms. Hutchinson added. “We acknowledge it can be frightening to be tested, but it’s over so quickly. It’s vital to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, and our communities open. Delaying getting tested is where the greatest harm can be done.”

Victoria is aiming to have 1 in 40 people tested every two weeks to ensure we are catching any COVID-19 cases early, preventing its spread and keeping the community safe and open.

More information on the COVID-19 Screening and Assessment Testing Blitz dates and location can be found at www.ndch.org.au, Facebook at ndchvic, or by phoning the NDCH COVID-19 hotline between 9am and midday Monday to Friday 54510200.

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