

Media Release  
for Immediate Release

28/04/2020



## COVID-19 SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT CLINIC FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Northern District Community Health (NDCH) in partnership with Gannawarra and Northern Loddon Health Services has opened a COVID-19 Screening and Assessment Clinic. NDCH has been working closely with the State government and hopes the Screening and Assessment Clinic will support the current plan to test more people to assist in assessing how wide-spread COVID-19 is in Victoria. This will hopefully provide evidence to support a staged reduction in the isolation restrictions.

Chief Executive Officer, Mandy Hutchinson said the COVID-19 Screening and Assessment Clinic is available to test anyone who has any symptoms, no matter how mild, such as a runny nose or scratchy throat.

Patients who meet the following clinical criteria should be tested:

- Fever, breathing difficulties, breathlessness, cough, sore throat, fatigue or tiredness.

Ms Hutchinson explained that Clinical symptoms consistent with COVID-19 included headache, myalgia, runny or stuffy nose, anosmia, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

The introduction of a local Screening and Assessment Clinic (SAC) will contribute to the 'Major Coronavirus Testing Blitz' announced by the Premier, Daniel Andrews yesterday. It will also reduce the need for people to travel to assessment clinics in Bendigo, Echuca and Swan Hill.

The community is still urged to contact their local medical clinic if they were unwell and to support their management of a chronic disease.

The clinic's Triage Service will operate from 9.00am to 12 Noon, Monday to Friday. Contact must be made by phoning 5451 0200. Each caller will be assessed by a clinician and provided with appropriate advice and to present to swabbing clinics available in Cohuna, Boort, Koondrook, Pyramid Hill and Kerang, by appointment only.

A reminder that the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses such as influenza is to:

- Avoid touching your face
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue, dispose immediately and wash your hands; or cough and sneeze into your elbow if a tissue is not available
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- Stay home if you are sick

NDCH are grateful to the Project Control Group overseeing the SAC Clinic with representatives from Kerang District Health, Cohuna District Hospital, Boort District Health, Gannawarra Shire Council, Department of Health and Human Services, Murray PHN and local GP Dr Megan Belot.

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Media Enquiries

Mandy Hutchinson, NDCH Chief Executive Officer on (03) 5451 0200.