

COVID-19 update

COVID-19 News

Adelaide PHN continues to keep general practices and providers up to date with the latest COVID-19 information by providing relevant resources, support, and updates as they become available. Most recent updates include –

COVID-19 Update for Primary Care Providers Webinar

SA PHNs in conjunction with SA Health are providing a COVID-19 update for Primary Health Care Providers. The webinar will be facilitated by Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Dr Melanie Smith, GP Liaison COVID-19 Project & Operations, SA Health. Guest Speaker Dr Eleanor Wilson, Medical Lead of the SALHN COVID Care Centre and Director of Education and Training will join us. Topics will include:

- General COVID-19 update
- Tips, tricks and practical advice for GP's on managing common COVID presentations via Telehealth
- Referral pathways for patients needing face to face review

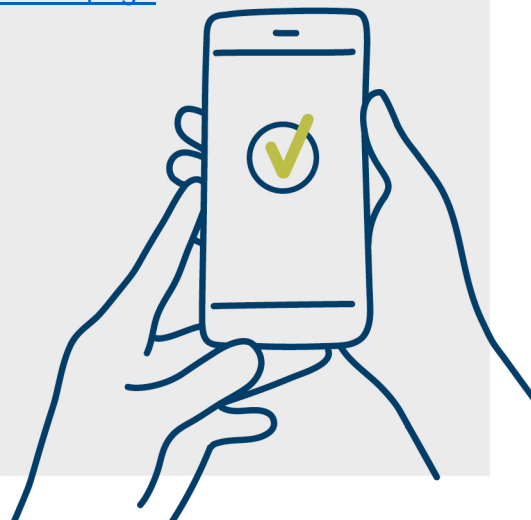
[Register here](#) and you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

COVID-19 Update for Primary Care Providers Webinar Recording

SA PHNS in conjunction with SA Health provided a COVID-19 Referral Pathways for General Practice for Anti-viral Medication Prescribing webinar on Wednesday 13 July 2022. Topics included:

- The new model of care and Healthdirect secure messaging changes for anti-virals.
- Tips, tricks and practical advice on how to safely prescribe oral anti-virals for your patients.
- A case-based discussion with our expert, experience panel with resources to make this a safe, efficient and practical process for community GPs.

The webinar recording is now available via [Adelaide PHN's YouTube page](#).



COVID-19 update

Expansion of In-home Visiting Services

Adelaide PHN in partnership with Wellbeing SA are pleased to announce the expansion of the in-home visiting service to now include people with Respiratory related health conditions.

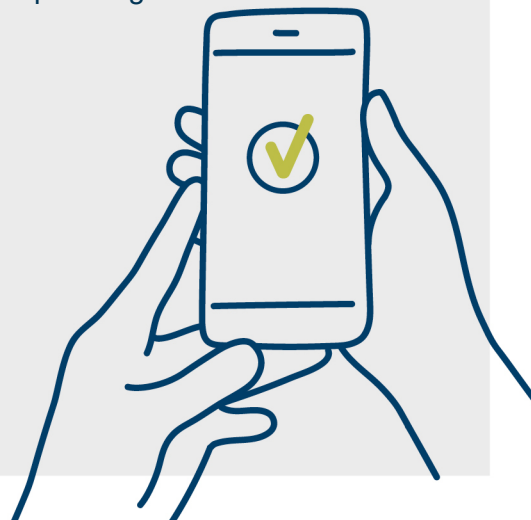
The program will continue to include in-home visiting services relating to non-COVID-19 related health conditions that require care while a COVID-19 positive person is isolating to avoid unnecessary escalation to hospital and will also encompass people with Respiratory related health conditions that require care and are unable to attend a General Practice for treatment/management due to their respiratory restrictions and limitations.

Service types include:

- Wound Management
- Medication Management
- Paediatric respiratory assessment
- Continence Management
- Interpreting

The program will accept referral services from General Practice, Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF), Priority Care Centres, SA Ambulance Service, Public Hospital Emergency Departments and inpatients of Public Hospitals with COVID/Respiratory conditions being discharged with functional decline and care needs, to be supported prior to being at a level for primary health interventions again.

Referrals can be made to the Metropolitan Referral Unit by either phoning 1300 110 600 or fax to 1300 546 104.



COVID-19 update

Expanded Eligibility Criteria for Antiviral Treatment

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has recommended expanded eligibility criteria for COVID-19 oral antiviral treatments, Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) and molnupiravir (Lagevrio).

This decision is in response to the latest evidence on the effectiveness and safety of the medicines, the rate of uptake since they were made available on the PBS and the changing epidemiology of the virus.

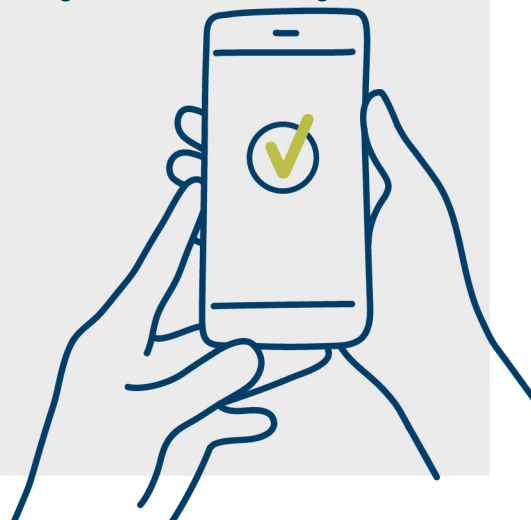
Eligibility has been broadened to include people who have chronic respiratory issues due to conditions such as COPD, moderate or severe asthma and there is also greater access for adults living with disability who have multiple medical conditions. Not being vaccinated has been removed as a risk factor from the criteria for prescription under the PBS.

The [new eligibility](#) includes updated age limits and risk factor.

General Practice Respiratory Clinics (GPRCs) Expanded

Adelaide PHN in partnership with SA Health is excited to launch a dedicated SA Health Respiratory Pathway, which will expand the operations of Adelaide's four Commonwealth funded GPRCs. The State Government has invested into the new pathway to deliver vital care for children and adult patients with respiratory conditions at the four GPRCs. Expanding the hours of operation will help alleviate pressure on South Australia's hospitals, emergency departments and general practice, particularly during winter as flu and COVID-19 cases are rising.

The Commonwealth funded GPRCs have played a critical part of SA's COVID response. They have helped to take the load off our health system by providing COVID-19 testing,



COVID-19 update

assessment, and vaccinations. Adelaide PHN has proudly supported these clinics since the start of the pandemic. Together, the GPRCs have administered tens of thousands of COVID vaccinations and assessed more than 70,000 patients with COVID symptoms.

This new initiative will improve access to care and treatment for respiratory patients who may not be able to see their regular GP, with the four GPRC sites extending hours and where possible flexing up to a seven-day service until the end of September. Pooraka and Parkside are the first GPRC to offer the expanded services with sites in Athelstone, and Old Reynella to follow.

For more information about the GPRCs including how to book an appointment, please visit [our website](#).

