

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 –

Voting Arrangements Direction

At 2.31pm 16 March 2022 the [Emergency Management \(Voting Arrangements\) \(COVID-19\) Direction 2022](#) came into effect. People who are a COVID-19 positive case or close contact and are quarantining in their place of residence, or who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and have not received their PCR result yet can vote in the State Election by collecting a ballot pack through:

- Registering on the [Electoral Commission of South Australia \(ECSA\) website](#); or
- Calling the ECSA call centre on 1300 655 232 if they do not have internet access.

For more information, please visit the [ECSA website](#)

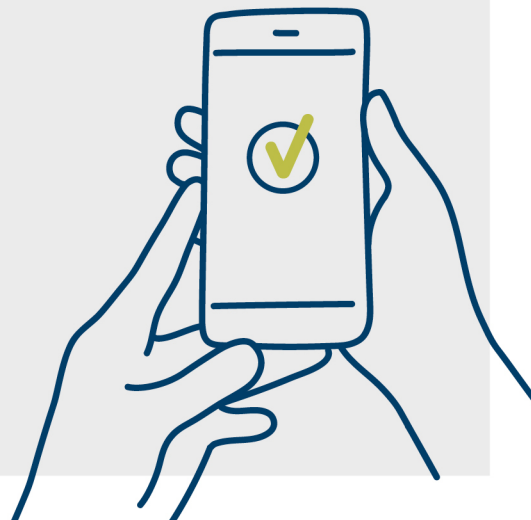
COVID-19 Vaccination Program Review

SA Health has commissioned VIRTU to undertake a review and make recommendations for the future rollout of mass vaccination programs in South Australia. General practices, respiratory clinics and pharmacies are invited to provide feedback on SA's COVID vaccine rollout via this [online survey](#).

Updated Testing Advice After Recovering from COVID-19

People who have recovered from COVID-19, now do not need to be tested within 8 weeks of their release from isolation. This means that if they have recovered from COVID-19, they will not be considered a close contact for 8 weeks after they finish isolation. After 8 weeks, they will still be considered a close contact if they are exposed to COVID-19 and meet the close contact definition. They will need to quarantine and get tested. If they develop new COVID-19 symptoms after 8 weeks, they should get a PCR test and stay at home until they get a negative result.

More information is available on the [SA Health website](#).



COVID-19 update

Isolation Requirements for Testing Positive to COVID-19

If someone has tested positive to COVID-19 they will now only need to isolate for 7 days. They can only leave isolation after 7 days if they have no acute symptoms (sore throat, runny nose, cough or shortness of breath) in the last 24 hours of their isolation.

On days 7 to 10 after isolation, they should:

- Wear a mask when around other people.
- Not attend a high-risk setting. If they work in a high-risk setting, they should tell their employer before returning to work.
- Follow this advice for days 8 to 14 if they have a weakened immune system (transplant recipient or receiving chemotherapy).

For more information, please visit the [SA Health website](#).

COVID-19 Direction Update

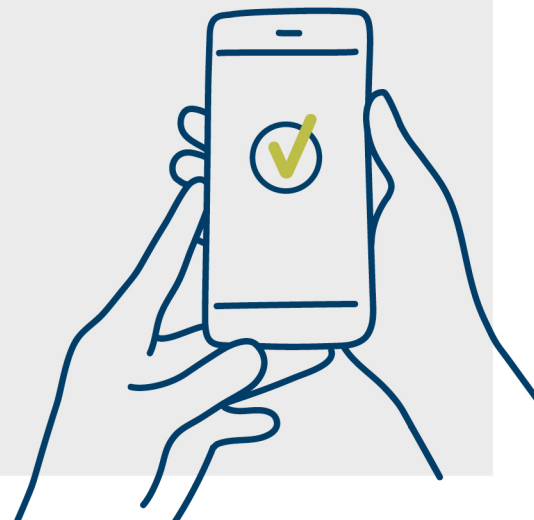
A new Healthcare Setting Workers Vaccination Direction is now in effect. People who engage in work or perform duties in Healthcare Settings on a single occasion or on an infrequent and irregular basis need to produce a negative Rapid Antigen Test result that is taken on either:

- The day of attending the healthcare setting; or
- 24 hours prior to attending the healthcare setting.

They are not required to be fully vaccinated to enter the healthcare setting provided they have done the above prior to entry and comply with wearing appropriate PPE as required by the Operator of the setting.

The Police Workers Vaccination Direction has been revoked and replaced with a Managerial Direction.

For more information, please visit the [SA Health website](#).



COVID-19 update

Updated MBS Item: COVID-19 Management Support Service

From 18 January 2022, MBS Item (93715) to support management of patients with confirmed COVID-19 has included patients diagnosed using a COVID-19 rapid antigen self-test. Item 93715 cannot be provided in conjunction with telehealth services and is only for face-to-face care.

Doctors should be aware that for patients that have received a positive result via a COVID-19 rapid antigen self-test, the medical practitioner is required to either assist in or confirm the reporting of the positive test result through SA Health. The medical practitioner is required to make a record in the patient's notes confirming that the result has been reported.

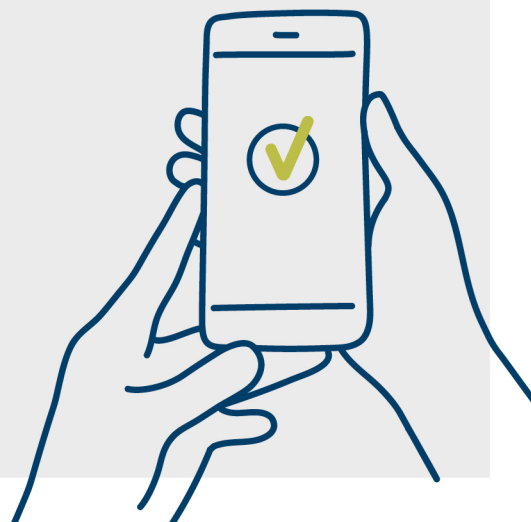
More information about MBS Item 93715 is available on [MBS Online](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination Training for GPs, Practice Nurses and Pharmacists

Consumers Health Forum has released a new training package to support vaccination providers to have meaningful conversations with patients considering COVID-19 vaccination. The training package provides new resources to help talk to vaccine hesitant patients that require more information about the safety and merits of vaccination.

The package was developed by the Consumers Health Forum in collaboration with public health experts, clinical advisors and is supported by the Department of Health. Included in this package is training videos, individualised tip sheets for PHNs, GPs, practice nurses and pharmacists and illustrated story cards that can be used as a conversation starter, as well as a take home source of information for patients. All resources are based on evidence and research around shared decision making in medicine.

To access the training package, and order resources for your practice visit the [Consumers Health Forum of Australia website](#).



COVID-19 update

Post COVID-19 Condition: Consultation Opening Soon

HealthPathways SA are currently drafting the Post Covid-19 Conditions Pathway. They are looking for interested GPs and Health Professionals to be involved and provide feedback. To register your interest in consultation, please email the HealthPathways SA Team via enquiries@sahealthpathways.com.au.

For more information, please visit the [HealthPathways SA website](#).

Monitoring the Impact of COVID-19 on General Practice

Macquarie University has conducted research to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in general practice based on data from New South Wales and Victoria. For more information, please visit the [Macquarie University website](#).

Reminder: Short Term In-Home Nursing Care for COVID Positive Patients

Home nursing care is available for COVID positive patients who require support that is unable to be provided by their usual GP practice due to COVID. Services may include:

- Wound care
- Medical administration i.e., SC, IV
- Paediatric
- Obstetric/neonatal
- Continence management and TOV

If you are unsure if your patient qualifies for this service, please call the Metropolitan Referral Unit on 1300 110 600. Clinical templates for referral can be found in Adelaide PHN's [Resource Library](#) by searching *in home COVID*. The referral forms are listed as *Referral Form In Home COVID Care* and can be imported to Medical Director, Best Practice or Zedmed.

