



9 July 2020

## SEYMOUR HEALTH OFFERS COVID-19 DRIVE-THRU TESTING CLINIC

Seymour Health has introduced a new COVID-19 drive-thru testing clinic in response to forecast increased demand for screening and the additional protection and convenience of our local community members.

The new drive-thru testing clinic commenced Thursday 9th July and now operates daily from 9.00am – 3.00pm, 7 days a week. If possible, please phone ahead to book your appointment on **0436 345 573**.

Seymour Health is following DHHS guidelines regarding testing eligibility, which includes no asymptomatic testing, unless from one of the 12 priority postcode areas

Community members are encouraged to phone ahead and only attend appointments at the Seymour Health COVID-19 testing clinic if they exhibit the following symptoms:

- Fever OR chills in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that explains the clinical presentation

OR

- Acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, anosmia or loss of smell or loss of taste)

Additional nursing and administration support staff have been scheduled to assist with the expected increase in demand for COVID-19 testing and further test kits and PPE has been ordered to help with the anticipated increase in volume.

Seymour Health is following the guidance of the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria (DHHS) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seymour Health is implementing a pandemic plan developed by the health service, which provides direction with the implementation of measures to minimise disease transmission to help protect our community.

Community members are encouraged to be aware of the following changes at the local health service resulting from the recent announcement of six weeks of Stage 3 restriction lockdown for Mitchell Shire.

### **Acute/Urgent Care**

- Visiting hours to 4.00pm – 8.00pm every day
- One visitor per patient at any one time
- Visitors should not stay longer than 30 minutes
- No children under 16 years of age
- Screening and sign in register on entry for visitors and contractors

**Barrabill House (Residential Aged Care Facility)**

- Full access restrictions will apply
- Only essential staff and health professionals can access the facility
- Large group gatherings, including social activities and entertainment will be suspended until further notice

**Theatre**

- Elective surgery has been suspended

**Ambulatory Care Centre**

- Telehealth consults (Healthdirect video call) will be reintroduced for Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) programs
- Health Independence Program (HIP) – ‘one on one’ sessions only
- Diabetic education, Dietician and Physiotherapy appointments- ‘one on one’ if required
- Home visits - essential services only

**Community Services**

- Social Support Group Services has been suspended
- District Nursing and Palliative Care services - via phone/or home visits, if essential
- Post-Acute Care – business as usual

**Oral Health Services (Dental)**

- Emergency treatments only

**Dialysis**

- Services to remain the same – business as usual

Chief Executive Officer, Ward Steet is proud of how Seymour Health staff are rising to meet the challenge following the announcement of six weeks of Stage 3 restriction lockdown for Mitchell Shire. This will have significant implications for the local health service.

“Despite the additional pressures of rapid and constantly changing information, our health service has been extremely agile in its response and ability to adapt. We continue to provide our community with the highest level of care and access to up to date information and we appreciate your assistance and understanding during this challenging time” he said.

If you have any questions about symptoms or potential exposure, please telephone 5793 6100 for advice, as this may avoid the need for hospital attendance. For the latest up to date information, visit:

[www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)