

## COVID-19 Clinical Advice Update 27/03/2020

**From: Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning**

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### Clinical Communities of Practice (COPs)

- Twenty Three COPs have been established across multiple clinical specialties to support statewide preparedness and communication for COVID-19.
- The purpose of the COPs is to:
  - support clinicians to network and share strategies, local solutions and issues with respect to pandemic preparedness
  - identify, prioritise and escalate issues and solutions related to COVID-19 that require a statewide or system response
  - review and provide expert clinical advice on guidelines, resources and other information
  - share Ministry approved advice and resources on the response to COVID-19 that can be circulated within all districts and networks.
- The COPs are multidisciplinary and include representation from all districts and networks.
- Clinical Leads have been appointed for each COP and they will participate in the COVID-19 Clinical Council.
- The majority of COPs met for the first time this week and have already sent action logs to the Ministry team to note/escalate as appropriate.
- The COPs have an internet presence on the NSW Health COVID internet pages and can be found at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/community-of-practice.aspx>.
- The webpage includes details of the clinical lead, meeting day and time and secretariat contact for each COP. Further development of these pages will occur as additional content is available.

## Clinical guidance and resources

- A webpage on the NSW Health internet site has been established to host approved clinical guidance documents related to COVID-19.
- The webpage can be accessed at:  
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/clinical-guidance-and-resources.aspx>
- To date 11 guidance documents have been published on the NSW Health internet site. Details of the documents are provided in the table below.
- Links to relevant guidance documents will also be included in the individual COP webpages once these are established.
- The approval process for COVID-19 guidance/advice documents has been developed. All documents will be reviewed fortnightly.

	<b>Published Clinical Guidance and Resources</b>	<b>Developed by`</b>
<b>Intensive care</b>	The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) COVID-19 Guidelines	ANZICS
	Adult ECMO (extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation) in COVID-19 pandemic	ACI
	NSW Adult Intensive Care Services Pandemic Response Planning	ICNSW/ACI
<b>Surgery</b>	Key principles for management of surgery during COVID-19 pandemic	ACI
<b>Pathology</b>	COVID-19 testing prioritisation	NSW Health Pathology
<b>Pharmacy</b>	NSW Health Interim Guidance on use of antiviral therapy in COVID-19	Anti-viral therapy guidance group
<b>Respiratory</b>	Aerosol generating respiratory therapies High flow nasal prong oxygen (HFNPO2)	ACI
	Aerosol generating respiratory therapies Nebulisers	ACI
	Aerosol generating respiratory therapies Non-invasive ventilation (NIV)	ACI
<b>Maternity, neonatal, paediatrics, child health</b>	Guidance for parents concerning infants and COVID-19	Health and Social Policy Branch
	Guidance for maternity and neonatal services	Health and Social Policy Branch

## COVID Clinical Council

- The COVID-19 Clinical Council has been established as the overarching clinical engagement body that connects experienced clinicians from all relevant specialties across the health system, encouraging constructive clinician contribution towards the NSW response to COVID-19.
- The Council is chaired by Dr Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Resources. Membership includes all Clinical Leads, as well as the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and a representative from Population Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC).
- The Council met for the first time on the 24 March 2020, and will continue to meet weekly by teleconference, or more frequently as needed.
- The NSW Minister for Health Brad Hazzard, NSW Health Secretary Elizabeth Koff and State Health Emergency Operations Centre (SHEOC) Controller Susan Pearce also joined the 24 March meeting.

## Update on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

NSW Health appreciates the tremendous support that our staff are providing to our community during this unprecedented event.

The safety of NSW Health staff is an absolute priority at all times and especially during the current COVID-19 situation. We appreciate the role PPE provides in keeping our frontline health professionals safe.

As such, NSW Health is undertaking a range of initiatives to ensure the ongoing supply of required PPE across our state's public health facilities, and to ensure continuity of our public health services. NSW Health is:

- collaborating with the Commonwealth Government to access the national medical stockpile;
- collaborating with industry to access wider sources of PPE and other medical supplies;
- exploring all potential avenues to:
  - expedite delivery of PPE from existing suppliers;
  - engage with new suppliers; and
  - engage with suppliers that can provide alternative products which meet the PPE needs of NSW Health,
- centralising ordering and management of incoming supplies to ensure appropriate, effective and equitable allocation of supplies across the state;
- working around the clock to secure and move supplies into and around NSW to meet needs, and in particular to regional or isolated areas;
- working with districts/networks to conduct routine physical stocktakes of PPE, and sharing best practice stock management processes to maintain consistent standards and improve our efficient use of available PPE; and
- working with the CEC to provide clear and accessible communication on when and how to appropriately use of PPE.

If there are any concerns about your safety or the availability of required PPE, please raise your concerns immediately with your manager and through your escalation processes within your facility.