

Our ref H21/146436

Dear Health Practitioner

Allied health professionals, complementary therapist, Chinese medicine practitioners and many other health professionals provide important health services for people living in the community.

As you are aware the COVID-19 outbreak in Greater Sydney continues to grow. We are seeing a high number of people require healthcare support, including intensive care and ventilatory support.

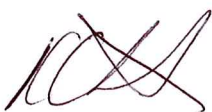
Greater Sydney is in 'lockdown' until at least 11:59pm on Friday 30 July. Health services continue to operate and need to remain vigilant to protect staff and patients. There have been some healthcare workers test positive for COVID-19 recently.

I would therefore request if you could please:

- Help our public health officials by encouraging your patients and the people in your communities in Greater Sydney to stay at home.
- Contact patients before presenting to ensure they do not attend if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have been identified as a close or casual contact, and to wear a mask when attending.
- Use telehealth appointments, if this is feasible. In Greater Sydney, only provide face to face services for patients whose health is likely to deteriorate if they don't receive care.
- Ensure all staff use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including during consultations <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/ppe.aspx>
- Set up the Service NSW QR check-in or other electronic entry recording system, and ensure visitors and staff attending use it as they enter your premises. This includes contractors and personnel making deliveries. Under a public health order it has been mandatory since 12 July for hospitals and private health facilities to record information about persons entering the premises. Strongly encourage patients to use the check-in process.
- Where possible, restrict visitors to patients and those supporting a vulnerable person.
- Urge all staff to get vaccinated. Clinical and non-clinical health care workers are eligible under phase 1B of the vaccination program.
- Encourage patients to get vaccinated as soon as eligible. NSW Health supports the use of AstraZeneca vaccine as outlined in the ATAGI advice <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-on-use-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-an-outbreak-setting>. Two doses are required to achieve good protection from the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2. Please discuss the risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccination with your patients in the context of current community transmission.

Thank you very much for your support and assistance. For more information please email MOH-PHEOPlanning@health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kerry Chant PSM
**Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary
Population and Public Health**

16/7/21