

Network Link

May 2020



Medical Mums urge free kids' flu vaccination

While most parents understand immunisation is the best way to protect children against many serious and life-threatening diseases, they often overlook the risks posed by influenza.

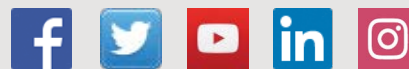
According to Queensland Health, infants and children less than five years of age are more likely than older children and adults to get severe flu infections resulting in hospitalisation.

Brisbane North PHN Deputy CEO Libby Dunstan said myths circulating on the Internet can confuse well-meaning parents about whether or not to vaccinate their children.

"To coincide with World Immunisation Week (24 to 30 April 2020), we have refreshed our Medical Mums public awareness campaign to counter vaccine myths," Ms Dunstan said.

"Immunisation rates for childhood vaccines covered under the National Immunisation Program Schedule are really quite high in Brisbane North, but seasonal flu vaccine coverage always seems to languish a lot lower," she said.

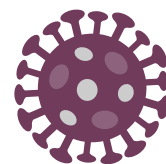
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BRISBANE NORTH

An Australian Government Initiative

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“Unfortunately, during this year’s flu season, we also have to contend with coronavirus.

“Doctors are warning that the consequences of contracting both COVID-19 and the flu at the same time would be catastrophic.

“Given the flu vaccine is free in Queensland for children aged between six months to under five years of age, we’d like to see more kids vaccinated against influenza,” she said.

The Medical Mums website – www.medicalmums.com.au – and annual campaign tackle some of the main myths known to be causing vaccine hesitancy among parents.

“We know parents are getting mixed messages about vaccination, but our campaign message is clear and unambiguous,” Ms Dunstan said.

“If parents have safety concerns about vaccines, they should talk to their GP,” she said.

“Whether it’s from something they’ve read online or a rumour they’ve heard from a friend, parents are saying it’s hard to know what’s true, but they don’t have to figure this out for themselves.

“The best person they can discuss their concerns with is their GP, who can answer their questions in more detail,” Ms Dunstan said.

Medical Mums campaign advertising features a series of animation videos that will appear across various digital platforms, including Facebook.

General practices are encouraged to access the patient resources available for download from the Medical Mums website.



Recorded coverage of seasonal influenza vaccine among Queensland children aged 6 months to <5 years (2018):

- Indigenous – **29.4 per cent**
- Non-Indigenous – **25.1 per cent**

Source: National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, Annual Immunisation Coverage Report 2018, published Nov 2019.

Brisbane North PHN childhood immunisation coverage (National Immunisation Program Schedule – Dec 2019):

- All children aged 12 to <15 Months – **95.28 per cent**
- Indigenous children aged 12 to <15 Months – **92.2 per cent**
- All children aged 24 to <27 Months – **92.81 per cent**
- Indigenous children aged 24 to <27 Months – **90.84 per cent**
- All children aged 60 to <63 Months – **94.69 per cent**
- Indigenous children aged 60 to <63 Months – **98.44 per cent**

Source: Australian Government Department of Health, 2019 PHN Childhood immunisation coverage data, updated 16 February 2020.

ABOUT NETWORK LINK

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Project ECHO supporting GPs with webinar series

Metro North Hospital and Health Service and Brisbane North PHN are partnering with the Project ECHO (Extending Community Health Outcomes) Hub at Children's Health Queensland to respond rapidly to the needs of GPs seeking COVID-19 information.

Project ECHO is a model of live, interactive videoconferencing, which delivers specialist expertise to frontline GPs, and supports sharing of practical tips and peer problem solving.

Recently, 200 GPs were joined online by public health and infectious diseases specialists, logistics experts, and PHN staff, to collectively keep abreast of the evolving situation.

A recent session saw local GPs sharing practice innovation around managing 'clean and dirty' spaces, immunisation

clinics, patients requiring face-to-face appointments, and ideas to maximise revenue in this challenging business environment.

A second ECHO series has launched, which responds to the specific needs of the aged care sector, offering support to Residential Aged Care Facility staff and providers.

Children's Health Queensland received a grant to establish a Project ECHO Hub through the Queensland Health Integrated Care Innovation Fund in 2016.

This investment is rapidly returning dividends to the state during this public health crisis.

For more information on the webinar series visit the events section on the PHN website.

For information about the GP-centric ECHO model contact dana.newcomb@health.qld.gov.au.

LATEST COVID-19 UPDATES ARE ONLINE

Brisbane North PHN continues to provide the latest COVID-19 information on our website.

This includes information for general practice; the latest on mask distribution, GP respiratory and fever clinics; news for aged care providers and PHN-funded service providers; and information for the community, including mental health resources.

Visit www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au to keep up-to-date with the latest news.

The PHN are also sending regular COVID-19 email updates to general practice. If you are not receiving this email update, you can subscribe at www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/page/publications/subscribe.

Additionally, visit the Department of Health website, the Queensland Health website or the World Health Organization website for further COVID-19 information and guidance.



GP respiratory clinic rolled out to help the region's COVID-19 effort

Director, Dr Evan Jones | Health Hub Doctors Morayfield

GP respiratory clinics are now open in the Brisbane North and Moreton Bay region, established as part of the Department of Health's response to COVID-19 testing and management.

The fully accredited respiratory clinic at Health Hub Doctors Morayfield is designed to relieve pressure within the hospital system by treating mild-moderate respiratory illnesses and providing COVID-19 testing.

The respiratory clinic is run separately to the Morayfield Health Hub's regular GP clinic, which means patients visiting the regular GP clinic have no interaction with respiratory patients. In the respiratory clinic there is use of full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including masks, gowns, goggles and gloves by staff.

In the main GP clinic, other COVID-19 protocols offered include:

- bulk-billed telehealth consultations offered to all patients
- increased cleaning measures
- adequate signage to promote social distancing measures
- promoting proper hand hygiene and supplying hand sanitiser within the clinic.

Recently, the PHN posed a few questions to Health Hub Doctors Morayfield Director, Dr Evan Jones regarding the clinic's efficient response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is the capacity of the new GP respiratory clinic?

We have 12 rooms and can operate at high numbers. We estimate about 450 patients per day but our busiest day so far has been 276 patients.

What made the Health Hub Morayfield team confident they could launch the respiratory clinic?

We designed the building to be able to operate in a pandemic and were effectively providing the service for weeks before the Federal Government contract. We had a building designed to operate in a pandemic and had written

our plan two years before the pandemic arrived. We acted early and had existing stores of PPE.

The staff here have adapted well. They have four hours in PPE before taking a break.

Are you seeing just as many of your regular patients on top of all the potential COVID-19 patients?

Yes. They feel safe coming into a clinic that has excluded all respiratory disease to a separate area with separate air conditioning etc. Additionally, all treatment at the respiratory clinic is free, and results are sent back to their regular GP.

For more information visit www.healthhubdoctorsmorayfield.com.au, phone 07 5322 4900 or the respiratory clinic on 07 5322 4901.

Other GP respiratory clinics within the Brisbane North and Moreton Bay region include Nundah Village and Kenmore. For more information on GP respiratory clinics visit bnphn.org/GPresp-clinic.



Institute for Urban Indigenous Health CEO Adrian Carson, Federal Member for Longman Terry Young MP, Deadly Choices Ambassador Steve Renouf and Brisbane North PHN Deputy CEO Libby Dunstan at the new Indigenous COVID-19 GP respiratory clinic at Caboolture.

First Aboriginal COVID-19 GP respiratory clinic opens in Queensland

The first Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) GP-led respiratory clinic established as part of the Australian Government’s \$2.4 billion health package to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak has opened in Caboolture, Queensland.

Federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt said, “This respiratory clinic and many more like it will provide a comprehensive level of care responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and will reduce the risk of further infection.”

“The Australian Government has committed to establishing up to 100 GP-led respiratory clinics around the country to assess patients with mild to moderate COVID-19-like symptoms,” Minister Hunt said.

“These clinics will help to reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments and other general practices.”

Queensland Minister for Health, Steven Miles said, “The dedicated Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Service is the first of its kind in the State and the Country.”

“This clinic based next to the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health centre in Caboolture will ensure access to appropriate respiratory assessment services related to COVID-19 for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the community.”

“It is important we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19 here in Queensland, and ensure we continue to reduce the risk

of further infection,” Minister Miles said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly those with a pre-existing medical condition, are at a higher risk of serious infection from COVID-19 than other Australians.

The Australian Government is working with local GPs and Aspen Medical, which has significant health emergency management experience in Australia and overseas, to roll out the clinics.

Minister Hunt said, “Our Government is investing \$206.7 million to establish up to 100 respiratory clinics across Australia, including in rural and regional areas in each state and territory.”

“This is complemented by a further \$6.9 million provided to support culturally safe access to COVID-19 care for ACCHS around the country, managed in partnership with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).”

More than 160 fever clinics, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and operated by State and Territory governments, are in operation across Australia.

Visit www.health.gov.au for further information.



Supporting community care clients through the pandemic

By Julie Morrow, Manager | Healthy Ageing

Acknowledging the greater risk older people face from COVID-19, local aged care service providers are staying connected with their clients through regular telephone contact and supporting their wellbeing with 'shop and drop' services.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, providers have reported a steady increase in the number of Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) clients declining their usual in-home social and care-related services due to infection fears.

In addition, centre and group-based aged care programs are temporarily suspended and the number of aged care assessments by Regional Assessment Service (RAS) agencies has also decreased, as older people delay seeking community based services.

Social isolation increasing

Social isolation was already a growing issue for this older cohort and, while it is necessary for people aged 70 and over to heed government recommendations to self-isolate to minimise their risk of exposure to the SARS-COV-2 virus, this can compound the risk of isolation.

According to a recent article published in The Lancet medical journal, the impact of quarantine can cause a loss of usual routine, a decrease in social and physical contact and a sense of isolation from the rest of the world.

The authors found that these issues can culminate in feelings of frustration and boredom, which can cause psychological

distress. Other stressors include infection fears, financial loss, stigma and inadequate supplies. In response, older people need practical advice on coping and stress management techniques.

Aged care sector responds

Brisbane North PHN leads a local consortium of CHSP providers and peak bodies, collectively known as healthy@home, as part of the broader strategic work it undertakes to improve coordination of care.

CHSP clients generally fall into the most at-risk population groups for severe COVID-19: People over 70 years of age; those with chronic medical conditions or weakened immune systems; and people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Aptly named 'shop and drop' services are one way the sector is responding. These ensure clients do not have to leave home to access sufficient healthy food and other necessary supplies to maintain good health and wellbeing.

Meanwhile, regular telephone contact is proving valuable in the quest to combat social isolation facing these clients. Centacare has mobilised its dedicated counsellors to provide support for clients who are experiencing mental health concerns at this time.

Area General Manager at Centacare Brisbane North Desley Chorlton said they are looking at a range of new ways to support clients and reduce isolation in their new circumstances, with regular check in calls, home – or even patio – visits, utilising technology for virtual visits, and ongoing domestic and personal assistance services.

CommuniFi and Burnie Brae are introducing iPad technology using platforms such as Zoom or Facebook to continue running social group activities with their clients. They are facilitating virtual groups such as art therapy, cooking and social groups, exercise classes and knitting groups.

CommuniFi CEO Karen Dare said clients had embraced the new online format.

"We've been overwhelmed by how easy it was to switch to running virtual activities. We're having a lot of fun with it and are now planning a quiz night," Ms Dare said.

"We'll certainly be doing a lot more of it. The sky's the limit really," she said.

However, while many seniors are comfortable relying on technology to maintain their social networks, staying connected is more challenging for others who do not have internet-connected devices.

To further reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection, Regional Assessment Service (RAS) assessors are now largely completing the usual face-to-face in-home aged care assessments by telephone.

They are also maintaining contact with clients post-assessment through regular welfare checks, until clients are connected with the services they need.

The Australian Government Department of Health is providing greater flexibility for clients affected by COVID-19 to access CHSP services in urgent or emergency circumstances and in some cases, services may be provided for up to six weeks without the need for an assessment.

This can be organised through the My Aged Care Contact Centre (1800 200 422) or directly with a service provider.

Aged care providers have also been given greater funding flexibility across service types and across service delivery regions to meet the needs of older people.

Unresolved issues

While essential in-home community care nursing and allied health services have not reported a noticeable drop in demand to date, these are likely to come under increasing stress.

Potentially, this will be due to delays to non-urgent surgical procedures as hospitals prioritise patients with COVID-19, the transfer of hospital outpatient care to community settings, increasing demand on general practitioners, and the fast approaching flu season.

Key issues for aged care service providers also include access to suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and ensuring older people have access to the flu vaccination.


Retention of non-clinical aged care workers due to declining levels of service provision is also a looming concern for providers, as is the need for more community nursing staff in the event of a surge in demand.

More broadly, providers are focused on supporting the health and wellbeing of aged care workers who are at the frontline of supporting older people in the community.

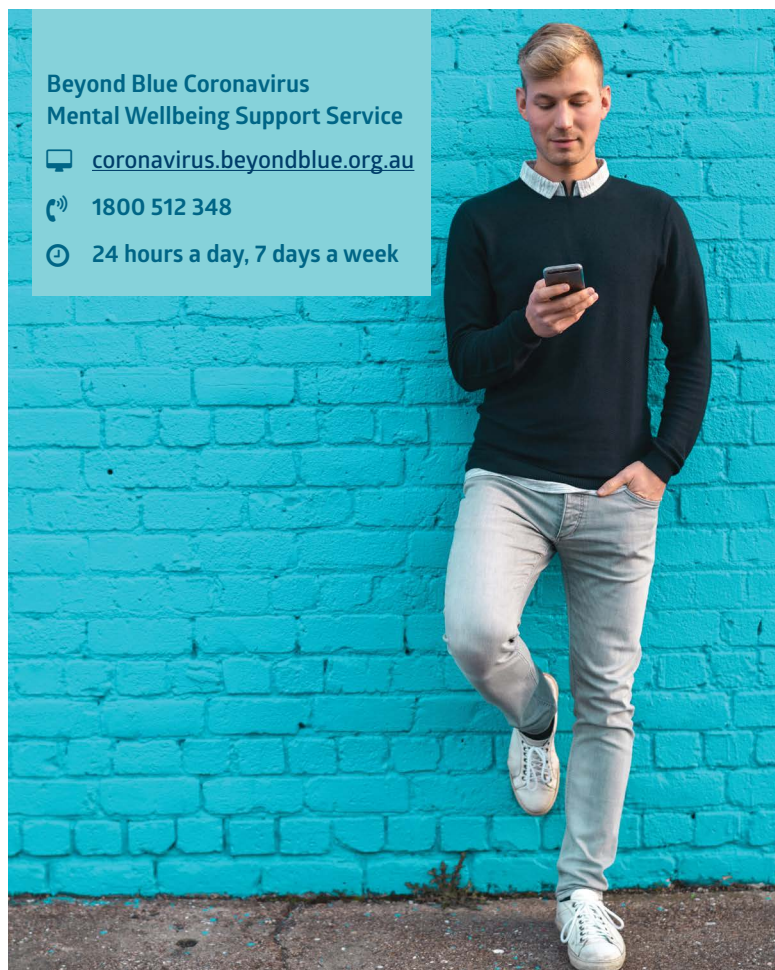
To contact Julie Morrow, call 07 3630 7360 or email Julie.Morrow@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Beyond Blue Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service

 coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au

 1800 512 348

 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



New dedicated service to support mental health through COVID-19

Patients whose mental health and wellbeing is suffering as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic now have a dedicated service specifically designed to address the challenges raised by the pandemic.

The Beyond Blue Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service provides a free, 24/7 service that delivers clear, evidence based information, advice and support related to COVID-19.

The service provides information on issues such as coping with loneliness and self-isolation, managing your mental health if you have the virus, ways to deal with job loss and financial stress, supporting friends and family, coping as a healthcare worker, and support for essential workers and small businesses.

The service also provides digital tools and apps to assist people manage their own mental wellbeing, referrals to other services and information as needed, and links to Beyond Blue's online peer forums.

Access the resources by visiting the website at coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au or by calling the service's trained mental health professionals on 1800 512 348, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Drive-through flu jabs a vaccine administration solution

By Dr James Martin | Pebble Beach Medical Centre

Like most general practices, Pebble Beach Medical Centre has a good system for getting people vaccinated against seasonal influenza quickly, efficiently and without an excessive impact on usual business. However, squeezing 50-100 people aged 65+ or with chronic medical conditions into a small space for the regular hour of controlled mayhem was not an option in the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, we developed a drive-through model that is working well for us, often eliciting an audible sigh of relief from patients as they book their jab.

The local supermarket car park is our latest weapon in the fight against coronavirus spread. Patients are booked to tightly controlled times and dire warnings against arriving outside these times are issued. Parking in front of the outdoor vaccine station, they remain in their car. Two nurses, in full PPE, administer shots through open windows using a no-touch technique.

People are then instructed to park nearby and sound their horn if feeling unwell. A resuscitation trolley is kept inside, just a few metres away. The duty GP and administration staff

Pictured (from left to right): Pebble Beach Medical Centre nurse Dianne Neil, GP Dr James Martin and nurse Loraine Evans.

direct traffic, identify attendees, obtain verbal consent and resupply vaccines regularly into a cooled container. Patients on foot utilise an outside waiting area.

The team at Pebble Beach Medical Centre has already learnt a lot as part of this process:

- keep nurses in the shade – full PPE quickly gets hot when outside
- wear a hat and sunscreen when directing traffic (even at 7.30 am)
- warn local business – one mistook us for a biosecurity lockdown!
- throughput can increase as you gain experience and troubleshoot
- larger clinics mean more conservative PPE usage
- biowaste bin bags make good ponchos in the event of rain!

This is one common-sense solution that suits us. We are lucky to have space outside to permit this approach and wonderfully adaptable practice staff to deliver it. Watching the team enjoy the success of its innovation has been inspiring.

Best wishes to everyone as they tackle their own individual challenges in the coming months.

News from Metro North Public Health Unit

The Metro North Public Health Unit focuses on protecting the community from communicable diseases and other illnesses, as well as promoting health and wellbeing. For further information on any of the updates below contact 07 3624 1111.

The Metro North Public Health Unit has noted a significant increase in cases of Ross River virus on top of the expected seasonal peak during April. The reason for this is multifaceted, but a contributing factor may be the community spending more time outdoors around dawn and dusk to exercise in the current climate of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To avoid mosquito bites and prevent mosquito-borne disease including Ross River virus:

- wear loose, light-coloured clothing with long sleeves and long legs especially if outside around dawn and dusk
- apply protective mosquito repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or picaridin to exposed areas of skin and reapply as directed by the manufacturer
- lotion and gel repellents are more effective and long lasting than sprays
- ensure flyscreens and water tank screens are in good order
- use mosquito lanterns, coils or plug-in repellent devices
- empty containers that hold water (e.g. pot plant bases) weekly.

Ross River virus is a self-limiting illness. Symptoms may include fever, arthralgia, arthritis and rash that usually develop three to 11 days after being bitten by an infectious mosquito. Treatment is supportive.

A patient information sheet can be found at <http://bnphn.org/QH-RRV>.

ADVERTISEMENT



Free resources from PracticeHub to keep your practice safe during COVID-19

To support the healthcare community, we have released a number of policies and procedures specifically covering COVID-19, to help you manage your practice, and support and safeguard your patients and staff.

The content covers:

- ALL our infection prevention and control policies, including COVID-19 policies relating to disease surveillance, hand hygiene and personal protective equipment
- COVID-19 policies for appointment management and triage, telehealth consultations, personal protective equipment and disaster recovery planning
- a range of human resource management policies.

Receive three months' free access to the PracticeHub platform with a range of templates, including COVID-19 policies and procedures.*

Free access to the PracticeHub platform

To access the COVID-19 resources call **1300 968 636**, email info@practicehub.com.au or visit practicehub.com.au

Terms and conditions: The three month free access is available to practices that do not currently hold a PracticeHub subscription. The free access period will commence from the date the PracticeHub site is set up. This offer is available until 30 June 2020. We will provide access to the PracticeHub platform, including COVID-19 specific policies and procedures. By participating in the free access period you agree to our terms of trade. At the end of the free access period, you will no longer have access to content provided unless you upgrade to a full PracticeHub subscription. PracticeHub reserves the right to change or terminate the free access at any time by giving you written notice. MJN260 04/20 (1164-2)

Noticeboard

Please contact the relevant organisation for more information about the items below.

Mental health resources for young people and their parents

ReachOut, has free COVID-19 support for young Australians and their parents to help them stay well when it comes to their mental health.

ReachOut, accessed by more than two million people in Australia each year, has trusted online self-help information, a peer-support program and referral tools for young people and their parents.

Available 24/7 online, ReachOut's dedicated resources give young people practical tips about looking after their wellbeing during the COVID-19 outbreak and ReachOut's online youth forums continue to offer peer support in safe and established online communities.

For more information visit <https://au.reachout.com>.

Continued care through different channels

Lives Lived Well has shifted its alcohol and drug and mental health support to telephone and online platforms in response to the COVID-19 virus and to help safeguard the health of clients, staff and their families.

Lives Lived Well's six live-in recovery centres are transitioning to non-face-to-face contact and we are working to assist our current residents out of live-in care. All clients will be offered continued care through different channels.

Lives Lived Well's free telephone and online counselling and support is available weekdays. To arrange an appointment complete a referral form online at www.liveslivedwell.org.au.

BreastScreen Queensland Northside temporary closure

BreastScreen Queensland Brisbane Northside Service has temporarily closed. This decision was made to safeguard clients and staff, and to free up capacity in the health care system.

To ensure screening occurs at an appropriate time we have negotiated a temporary service with Queensland X-Ray (QXR) to have breast screening performed at no cost for women who attend the Breast Cancer Family Clinic. This service will be offered at COVID-19 safe locations.

Once reporting is complete, BCFC staff will advise clients and their GPs of the outcome as usual. If follow up is required this will be done by QXR in conjunction with BCFC staff.

Once it is safe to re-open, BreastScreen Queensland will contact clients affected by the closure to reschedule appointments and advise GPs of the planned reopening.

Online immunisation study now available

BenchmarkIQ can support distance-based learning for students and secure-webinar functionality for partners.

BenchmarkIQ's new offering in the online space are two units contextualised to the current influenza season, these are now live on the website and open for registration.

Both units take an hour to complete and once completed students will be able to articulate to the full Course in Immunisation Practice or Course in Immunisation Support.

For those who have already enrolled or completed the full program, this content will be made available at no cost to the student. For more information visit www.benchmarkgroup.com.au.

My health for life program forges on

The My health for life program are working with our providers and facilitators to transition existing group participants to either continuing with their health coach online using Zoom, or moving to telephone health coaching.

New program participants are also offered the choice of video conferencing or telephone coaching and online health checks continue to operate as normal.

Currently, there are 15,684 Queenslanders enrolled in the program and more than 205,000 have now completed health checks. For more information visit myhealthforlife.com.au.

St John Queensland serving the community

St John Queensland is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, reduce and control the risks associated with COVID-19 during service delivery in line with Government advice and directions.

St John Queensland is offering additional services to support the COVID-19 social isolation and social distancing measures in place. This includes:

- collection and drop off of medications (including medications for pets)
- collection and drop off of groceries, fresh produce and other household items
- collection of parcels and other errand type travel
- delivery of newspapers, puzzle books or magazines
- telephone companionship and welfare checks
- supported shopping and appointments.

To refer a patient call 1300 785 646 or email intake@stjohnqld.com.au.

Care Army call out

The Care Army is made up of everyday Queenslanders who want to help older people living in the community who may not have a wide circle of friends, family or neighbours who are able to support them.

The Queensland Government is enlisting people and organisations to help support seniors during the COVID-19 crisis. The primary focus of the Care Army is social connection and essential services such as the delivery of groceries and medicines for Queensland's seniors.

For more information or to volunteer call the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349 or visit www.covid19.qld.gov.au/carearmy.

Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness Planning tool for COVID-19

The tool, developed by Queensland Disability Network alongside the University of Sydney, is for people with disability, to assist them and their supporters to be informed and take actions to prepare for their own individual needs during the pandemic.

The tool aims to give practical tips around things you can do now – a plan so people can have some control over what happens over the next few months in this environment. This tool helps people think about these essential disability supports across eight different functional areas and make a plan.

To access the tool visit <https://qdn.org.au/home/covid-19/make-a-plan/pcep>.

E-cigarette study

Ipsos are working with Queensland Health to understand the perceptions and attitudes towards e-cigarettes and vaping among young Queenslanders.

As part of this, Ipsos would like to interview stakeholders including health workers and GPs who come into contact with young Queenslanders who have used, currently use, or are considering using e-cigarettes and vapes.

This interview is an hour in length and conducted via telephone. To participate contact Nonie Finlayson via email nonie.finlayson@ipsos.com or phone 0422 791 491.

Primary health nurses wanted

The University of Wollongong led Project Team are working closely with the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association and Australian College of Nursing to advocate for nurses and the community, by making the issues impacting nurses visible.

The research aims to capture a robust picture of nurse experiences working in community and primary health care during COVID-19.

Share the survey with your colleagues and friends who are nurses working in community and primary health care. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID_PHCNursing to take part.

Eating disorders and COVID-19

The emergence of COVID-19 has created new challenges for people with eating disorders, their families and loved ones, and for our health services, which are under increased pressure. Given the physical effects of eating disorders on the body, some people experiencing eating disorders may be particularly vulnerable to more severe forms of COVID-19.

It is also important that support and treatment of individuals with eating disorders is maintained due to high risk of deterioration. It is recommended that treatment and recovery is continued even at times when a client is unable to physically attend their treatment service.

Eating disorders leaders and experts from across Australia have come together to develop key resources on COVID-19 and Eating Disorders for primary care practitioners, mental health clinicians and services and consumers and carers.

For more information, visit the following links

Information for health professionals:

www.ceed.org.au/covid-19-eating-disorders-information-health-practitioners

Information for clinicians to share with any clients:

www.eatingdisorders.org.au/find-support/covid-19-and-eating-disorders

GP bulletin – May 2020

News from General Practice Liaison Officers at Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Please provide feedback to the GPLO program mngplo@health.qld.gov.au.

HealthPathways update

Newly released HealthPathways:

- COVID-19 Practice Management
- COVID-19 Requests
- COVID-19 Impact on Local Services

To submit feedback about HealthPathways, please contact administration.integration@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Login at: brisbanenorth.communityhealthpathways.org.

COVID-19 Health Pathways

Find useful local information on testing criteria, FAQs on COVID-19, how to preserve PPE, current services available and more; updated daily by our clinical editor.

Username: Brisbane

Password: North (case sensitive)

Visit brisbanenorth.communityhealthpathways.org.

Subscribe to COVID-19 updates

To receive our email updates, subscribe to 'the Bulletin' at www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/page/publications/subscribe. Share this link with colleagues who may not be subscribed.

COVID-19 updates

Local GPs are encouraged to visit the following key sites for COVID-19 updates:

PHN COVID-19 updates – information about masks, local fever clinics and more:

www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/page/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-information

QLD Health COVID-19 page

www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19

S&N Pathology – weekly COVID-19 results data

www.snp.com.au/clinicians/results-and-reporting/infectious-disease-reports

New telehealth MBS item numbers – latest news

www.mbsonline.gov.au

Antenatal care during the COVID-19 pandemic

Where possible, face-to-face antenatal care usually provided in a hospital based maternity outpatients department is now being provided in the community, supported by telehealth.

This is a rapidly changing landscape and GPs may be asked to provide additional antenatal, postnatal and newborn care support.

Queensland Clinical Guidelines (maternity) are available at www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg.

Advanced care planning

It is important to discuss with your patients their advance care plans to ensure their future wishes are met.

GPs can share their patient's advance care planning documents with hospital clinicians so they are easily viewed online via the secure Queensland Health Health Provider Portal (Viewer) by hospital staff and GPs. This allows all clinicians to all be aware of your patient's wishes (with your patient's permission).

A range of resources are available for you and your patients at bnphn.org/QH-advance-care or for any enquiries email acp@health.qld.gov.au.

Health Provider Portal

Queensland GPs can now print out information from the Health Provider Portal using the printer icon on the result you wish to print.

Sign up at www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/database-tools/health-provider-portal.

For further information or to provide feedback contact the Health Provider Portal team at connectingqld@health.qld.gov.au.