

WESTERN SYDNEY'S RAPID RESPONSE - FIVE COVID-19 CLINICS ACROSS THE REGION NOW OPERATING

24 APRIL – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

WentWest, the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) has worked with Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) and local General Practices to set up COVID-19 clinics across the Western Sydney region in record time.

WentWest (WSPHN) and WSLHD staff discuss daily pandemic progression information and constantly consider how best to respond and support the community. This collaboration has in many cases delivered purpose-built clinics where and when they are needed with WSPHN, WSLHD and General Practices providing infrastructure, staff and equipment as required.

In alignment with this and located in an area particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, an assessment and testing clinic at Mount Druitt Hospital recently opened its doors. An Aboriginal GP leads this clinic with the support of an Aboriginal nurse to help support the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This clinic offers a demonstrative example of the 'one Western Sydney health system' approach now being rolled out across the region with facilities and equipment provided by the WSLHD and WentWest (WSPHN) along with clinical services provided by the team at Kildare Road Medical Centre in Blacktown.

Under the leadership of WentWest (WSPHN), GP-led clinics dedicated to the assessment and testing of patients at risk of COVID-19 have been established in key hotspots. Kildare Road Medical Centre and Riverstone Family Medical Practice have recently worked with WentWest (WSPHN) to open the first GP-led Respiratory Clinics in Western Sydney. In response to COVID-19, the Department of Health has worked with PHNs across Australia to roll out several initiatives, including dedicated GP-led Respiratory Clinics, to help combat and control the pandemic.

The Blacktown Respiratory Clinic is open daily, and the Riverstone COVID-19 Respiratory Clinic is open Monday to Friday. These clinics aim to relieve pressure on both emergency departments (EDs) and local general practices, so EDs can prioritise severe cases and local practices can continue to safely care for patients with non-respiratory related conditions.

In another demonstration of the region working together to address COVID-19, Blacktown City Council has been instrumental in supporting the set-up of the Riverstone Respiratory Clinic who provided a great deal of the infrastructure and site for the clinic.



WentWest would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We value their culture, identity, and continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community. We would like to acknowledge and give our respect to Elders past, present and future. We are committed to making a valued contribution to the wellbeing of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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MEDIA RELEASE

“Given the current acute situation with COVID-19, it was important to start the clinic quickly to provide a service to the local community,” said Dr. Michelle Crockett, principal GP, Riverstone Family Medical Practice.

“The support of both WentWest and Blacktown Council was instrumental in the rapid set up of our respiratory assessment clinic. The staff at Riverstone Family Medical Practice have worked tirelessly to have the clinic working efficiently, providing a setting that maximises safety of both staff and patients.”

WentWest CEO, Ray Messom has hailed this new way of working, addressing the need in the community for greater access to assessment and testing. “Supporting our community during this challenging time is our number one priority and it’s thrilling to see general practice and hospitals come together to provide innovative assessment and testing facilities across the region.

I have been greatly heartened by the strength of our partnerships, the can-do attitude to roll out clinics in record time and the deep dedication health care workers are displaying across the board to assess, test and care for people in Western Sydney. Primary and acute care have worked together to build a world class system here in Western Sydney in the face of unprecedented pressures. It is wonderful to see residents in Western Sydney having access to care when and how they need it.”

In Western Sydney, there are also two NSW Health COVID-19 / Flu assessment clinics operating at Westmead and Blacktown hospitals set up by the WSLHD. For more information about these clinics and others across NSW please visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-clinics.aspx>

Visit wentwest.com.au/covid-19 for more information about WentWest’s (WSPHN) COVID-19 response and details on local GP-led Respiratory Clinics.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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