

## 2019 Novel Coronavirus - Important Update

A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. The 2019-nCoV is closely related to SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) coronavirus and in the same family as MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) coronavirus.

The 2019-nCoV can be spread from person to person most likely by coughing or contact with respiratory secretions. The infection is affecting people who have recently been in the city of Wuhan, China.

There are currently four confirmed cases of n-CoV in NSW, and six suspected cases under investigation. All cases had travelled to Hubei Province, China or had contact with a confirmed case in China. All patients are currently in isolation in NSW hospitals.

NSW Health is urging people who have recently returned from Wuhan or have been in contact with a confirmed case of n-CoV infection to ensure they are aware of the of n-CoV infection symptoms and contact their GP or Local emergency department if symptoms develop within 14 days.

Today we have taken delivery of surgical masks from both NSW Health and the Department of Health. We are aware there are areas, due to high demand and the recent bushfires, that have limited to no supply available commercially. We will be prioritising dispatch to practices who are:

- in these areas where there is limited supply.
- have a population that may be more likely to have been exposed to the novel coronavirus; and/or
- have unusual numbers of patients presenting with respiratory symptoms.

Please contact Helpdesk on [8811 7117](tel:88117117) or email [support@wentwest.com.au](mailto:support@wentwest.com.au) where your request will be recorded and assessed. Your patience is very much appreciated.

GPs should immediately notify the public health unit of suspect cases by calling [1300 066 055](tel:1300066055). Further information regarding control guidelines, case definitions and laboratory testing can be found on [NSW Health website](#).

NSW Health have also released the following [updated advice for general practitioners](#). More information and updated resources can be found on the following webpages:

- [NSW Health coronavirus FAQs](#)
- [RACGP information on coronavirus](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Health](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)

Have you **travelled to Wuhan**, China,  
in the past 14 days?

**AND**

Have a **fever** with a **cough, sore throat**  
or **shortness of breath**?

## Events



Feb

04

### The Role of GPs in Managing Obesity and Diabetic Retinopathy

Tuesday 4th Feb, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

[FLYER](#)

Feb

06

### Heart Health Checks: The Critical Role of the Practice Nurse

Thursday 6th Feb, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

[FLYER](#)

Feb

25

### An Introduction to Quality Improvement for PIP QI

Tuesday 25th Feb, 6:00pm - 8:30pm

[FLYER](#)

## Other News



### Alcohol and Other Drugs GP Education Program

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) will develop and deliver the [Alcohol and Other Drugs \(AOD\) GP Education Program](#) which aims to strengthen the capacity of GPs to address alcohol and other drug use in their communities. The program will be tailored to meet the needs of GPs in different communities and settings. There are incentives for being a part of the education program with options for accessing the training.

The RACGP are looking for GPs to get involved in the program delivery by [completing an EOI](#).

## Recruiting GPs for Research Study on Early AFib Detection

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Does your work involve detection, diagnosis or management of atrial fibrillation (AF)? You are invited to take part in a [research study](#) about screening practices and direct-to-consumer wearable technologies (DTCWs) used for AF detection. You will be asked questions about your experience and perspective of current screening practices and use of DTCWs in AF detection.

### Call for Expressions of Interest

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GPs are invited to submit an expression of interest to sit in with the registrars as they consult with pregnant women at the Antenatal clinic at Westmead Hospital. GPs will also have the opportunity for a Q&A with Dr Anpalagan. The clinic educational sessions will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, running from 2:00pm - 5:00pm.

This opportunity is particularly suitable for Antenatal Shared Care Registered GPs who need to fulfill their educational requirements for the new triennium. The first session will be held on Wednesday 5th February. Register your interest by emailing [support@wentwest.com.au](mailto:support@wentwest.com.au) with your full name, practice name, email and mobile.

### GP Association Meetings

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The following GP association meetings are coming up in Western Sydney:

**Hills:** Beat the Heat Three - GP Responses to Heat and Smoke, Tuesday 4th February.

**Blacktown:** Clinical Challenges in Airway Diseases, Wednesday 19th February.



Level 1, 85 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown NSW  
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