

Thursday 30 April 2020

## INCREASED COVID-19 TESTING IN KEY SOUTH EASTERN SYDNEY SITES

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) is calling for increased COVID-19 testing among people who live in the Georges River, Bayside and Sutherland local government areas.

Achieving high testing rates is an important element in controlling the spread of COVID-19. While incidence of COVID-19 in Georges River, Bayside and Sutherland local government areas remains low, these areas have lower testing rates than other parts of the health district.

Residents of Georges River, Bayside and Sutherland local government areas who have a fever (or history of fever) or symptoms of respiratory infection such as a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat, are strongly encouraged to seek COVID-19 testing.

Professor Mark Ferson, Director, SESLHD Public Health Unit, said while the health district has the highest overall rate of testing for COVID-19 in NSW, expanding testing in these areas is important.

“Even though the numbers of new confirmed cases have dropped in the last few weeks, we need to be absolutely certain that we quickly pick up all new cases, even very mild ones,” Prof Ferson said.

“I urge anyone who is feeling unwell with a cough, fever, shortness of breath or sore throat who lives or works in Georges River, Bayside or Sutherland local government areas to get assessed at one of the [COVID-19 clinics](#) in the health district or at their local GP. And I would like to remind anyone who is feeling unwell that they must stay at home except when seeking healthcare.

“It is important that everyone follows infection control measures, maintains social distancing and is alert to symptoms of COVID-19.”

For accurate information and updates on COVID-19 people should go to the NSW Health website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>