Wednesday 13 May 2020

More community COVID-19 testing options through local GPs and drive-through clinics

Phone or video appointments with general practitioners (GPs) are making it more convenient for people feeling unwell to be assessed and for COVID-19 testing to be safely arranged.

To make testing even easier, new COVID-19 testing clinics have recently opened – including a drive-through clinic in Sutherland which opened to the community this week – along with others run by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) and privately run clinics.

Dr Marianne Gale, Director, Population and Community Health, SESLHD, said anyone experiencing fever or respiratory symptoms – even if mild – is encouraged to promptly seek testing.

"There are more and more options for people in our community to get tested for COVID-19. I would urge anyone experiencing even mild symptoms like a scratchy throat or runny nose to be tested," Dr Gale said.

Dr Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN), called on all community members to not only seek COVID-19 testing if unwell, but also to attend to their general health needs and continue to seek care from their GPs.

"Your GP is still there for you, so please do not put off or miss medical appointments, or ignore symptoms during this period of social restriction. There are safe ways of getting all sorts of care, including consultations, vaccinations, prescriptions and more," Dr Moore said.

"You may be able to have a phone or video appointment, or even have your medicines delivered. Face-to-face appointments will still be recommended in some cases, but they can be done safely. There are rules about physical distancing (such as sitting a safe distance apart in the waiting room and during your consultation), and strict cleaning measures are also in place."

The SESLHD Sutherland drive-through clinic is located at the Sutherland Multi-Purpose Community Centre, 123 Flora Street, and operates from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

For testing options in the SESLHD area, find details here:

- Private laboratories and GP respiratory centres:
  https://www.cesphn.org.au/news/latest-updates/3627-coronavirus#GP

- SESLHD COVID-19 clinics: http://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19-clinics