

Wednesday, 7 July 2021

Call for testing after COVID fragments detected at Port Kembla plant

The community of Port Kembla and surrounding suburbs is being encouraged to present for COVID-19 testing after fragments of the virus that causes COVID have again been detected in the Port Kembla sewage treatment system.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Director Public Health Curtis Gregory said a second positive result was picked up as part of NSW Health's ongoing sewage surveillance program. The Port Kembla catchment covers about 49,000 people living in suburbs including Windang, Lake Heights, Cringila, Warrawong, Koonawarra, Brownsville, Dapto, Berkeley, Kanahooka, Horsley, Avondale, Cleveland, Unanderra, Kembla Grange, Primbee, and Port Kembla.

Mr Gregory said while there are no known active cases of COVID-19 in these areas, the District is asking the community to act at the first sign of symptoms.

“High rates of testing is critical to ensuring that COVID-19 is not circulating undetected in the community,” Mr Gregory said.

“Everyone who lives and or works in this area is asked to be vigilant for the onset of any cold-like symptoms. If they appear, please immediately be tested and isolate until a negative result is received.

“Symptoms can include fever, cough, breathing difficulties, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting and fatigue.

“The District is also working on a range of multicultural resources to help share these important messages with those in our community where English is not their first language. “We also ask the community to actively share this information with their families, friends, neighbours and workmates.”

To help make testing for locals easier, Laverty Pathology has established a pop-up drive-through clinic at the Port Kembla Pool. The clinic is on Olympic Blvd, Port Kembla, with access via Cowper Street. It will operate 8am-4pm week days, starting tomorrow and 8am-2pm on weekends until required. There will also be capacity to manage walk-in assessments for people without a car.

If there is high demand and waiting times at the Port Kembla clinic, people are asked to please attend one of the area's many other clinics.

Other nearby clinics are located at:

- Berkeley Southern IML pathology - drive-through clinic
- Illawarra Sports Stadium Carpark. Fred Finch Park, Hooka Creek Rd, Berkeley, 8am-4.30pm Monday-Friday and Sunday

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District

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healthdirect AUSTRALIA – providing expert health advice 24 hours a day to NSW residents – Tel. 1800 022 222

- Figtree Laverty – drive-through and walk-in clinic - 11 Princess Highway Figtree 8am-4pm Monday-Friday, 8am-12pm Saturday-Sunday
- Wollongong Laverty Pathology - drive-through clinic- 138-142 Kembla Street, Wollongong, 8am-1pm Monday-Friday
- Wollongong 4Cyte Pathology – walk-in clinic, 406 Crown Street, Wollongong, 8am-5pm Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm Saturday
- Wollongong Southern IML Pathology - drive-through, 45 Denison Street, Wollongong, 8am-6pm, seven days

A full list of local testing clinic locations and opening hours is available on the District's website at www.ISLHD.health.nsw.gov.au.

There are more than 350 COVID-19 testing locations across NSW, many of which are open seven days a week. To find your nearest clinic visit [COVID-19 testing clinics](#) or contact your GP.

NSW Health are regularly updating the [case location webpage](#) as new venues visited by confirmed cases of COVID-19 emerge. As contact tracing and testing is ongoing, please regularly check the [NSW Health website](#) to remain up-to-date with case locations and public health alerts.

You can also stay up to date by following the [ISLHD Facebook page](#).