Thursday, 23 July 2020

COVID-19 drive-through testing clinic established at Albion Park

In response to the increase in local demand for COVID-19 testing, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD) is establishing a drive-through testing facility at the Albion Park Showground.

The drive-through testing clinic will be open from Friday, 24 July and will be operational weekdays, Monday to Friday from 8am - 4pm.

ISLHD Acting Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery, Brad Scotcher said the drive-through testing clinic has been established in accordance with the guidelines developed by the NSW COVID-19 Response State Health Emergency Operations Centre.

"The aim is to provide fast and convenient testing options to our local residents who may require this service.

"Plans for the clinic, including traffic flow considerations, have also been developed in a way that is intended to minimise disruption to local residents and businesses.

"As cases in NSW resulting from community transmission continue to be reported, we are calling on the community to redouble its efforts to stop the virus spreading. This additional clinic will help make it as easy as possible for people to be tested locally," Mr Scotcher said.

It is critical that anyone feeling unwell – even with the mildest of symptoms such as a runny nose or scratchy throat – seeks testing and self-isolates until they get the result. Stay at home, and do not go to work or catch public transport until you are cleared of COVID-19.

People who work in high-risk settings such as healthcare facilities or aged care homes must not attend work if they have symptoms and must get tested immediately. People should also not visit relatives in these settings if they have even the mildest of symptoms or have recently returned from Victoria or attended any of the affected venues reported on the NSW Government website.

It is essential people follow directions they receive about home isolation and quarantine and maintain COVID-safe practices of physical distancing of 1.5 metres, cough or sneeze into their elbow, and regularly wash their hands for at least 20 seconds each time.

There are a number of other testing facilities within the Local Health District, including the free community COVID-19 Assessment Clinics located at Wollongong, Shellharbour and Shoalhaven Hospitals. Visit the LHD's website for more information: www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19-assessment-clinics.

NSW has more COVID-19 testing clinics than any other State or Territory and people are urged to visit an alternative site if there is heavy demand at one location. A full list of COVID-19 testing clinics in NSW is available on the NSW Health website. People can also visit their GP for testing.