

16th March 2020

Western NSW Primary Care COVID 19 Respiratory Clinic Establishment Meetings

The Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) would like to extend an invitation to general practitioners, practice managers and other relevant health service managers within Broken Hill to attend an urgent meeting on the establishment of COVID-19 Primary Care Respiratory Clinics.

The Commonwealth Government has announced that there will be the establishment of private practice respiratory clinics to provide dedicated services to people with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms, in addition to services available within public hospitals and general practices. The decision on funding sites will be made by the Department of Health following recommendations by WNSW PHN.

Funding will be provided to assist in identifying and establishing sites, and to continue assisting with distribution of PPE. Flexible funding will be available to support the setup of dedicated clinics or hybrid clinics:

- Dedicated respiratory clinics, which will receive setup funding of up to \$150,000; and
- Smaller clinics may be established as part of continuing practices through mechanisms such as dedicated entrance or wings, isolation controls, and other innovative models subject to verification of safety and standards.

The PHN is working to identify suitable sites for the establishment of these clinics in the Western NSW PHN region and appropriate lead practices to assist with the setup and running of these clinics. Attached to this invitation is a checklist of the government requirements for possible sites and we would be interested in your feedback or suitability as a possible site before the meeting.

We would encourage participation from practices who are interested taking the lead on these initiatives as well as practices interested in assisting with issues around workforce and the individual local response for this area.

This meeting is to be held via the following tele / video conference link:

- **Broken Hill on Tuesday 24th March 2020 6.30-7.30pm. Please advise Natalie by return email if you will be joining the meeting.**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/637859733>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Australia (Toll Free): 1 800 191 358

Australia: 02 8355 1038

Access Code: 637-859-733

For more information please contact Tabitha Jones COVID-19 Project Response Coordinator 0407221323 or

Tabitha.jones@wnswphn.org.au

Western Health Alliance Limited trading as Western NSW PHN

First Floor, 187 Brisbane Street | PO Box 890 | DUBBO NSW 2830

T: 1300 699 167 | F: 1300 699 168 | W: www.wnswphn.org.au | ABN 59 605 922 156

1B Cameron Place
ORANGE NSW 2800

Preferred site specifications for respiratory clinics

Physical requirements

- Located in either a temporary or existing structure that gives protection from the weather
- Direct external access that does not require patients to transit through any other part of the General Practice
- Wheelchair access and other standard disability access requirements
- Well ventilated, ideally with separate air conditioning system to rest of practice
- Access to toilets for patients (separate to usual practice toilet) and staff
- At least two isolation rooms for assessment
- Sufficient isolation rooms or other arrangements for patients to wait for assessment. Alternate, workable arrangements might include patients waiting in cars for assessment, or if this is not possible, the waiting area needs to be large enough to provide separate areas for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients and provide at least 1 metre of distance between all patients

Physical location

- Close proximity to sufficient car parking
- Close proximity to public transport (where relevant)
- Accessible by other patient transport services (including ambulance)
- Priority given to practices located within area of need (e.g. high proportion or vulnerable population) or under serviced area (e.g. not in close proximity to local health authority influenza clinic)

Infrastructure

- Adequate facilities for hand hygiene (at minimum hand washing facilities in each examination room and access to alcohol-based hand rub in all other areas)
- Reliable water and electricity supply
- Access to telephone and computer networks
- Access to patient management system
- Online or telephone appointment scheduling capacity

Staffing

- At least one clinician per examination room (nurse or GP); if nurses reviewing patients then at least one GP providing oversight in addition
- At least one clerical/triage staff member

Waste disposal

- Facilities to dispose of all waste appropriately in accordance with standard precautions

Personal protective and other medical equipment

- If possible, local supplies of gloves, gowns and goggles (Dept. of Health will provide masks and assist with finding other supplies)
- Adequate supplies of other medical equipment e.g. stethoscopes, examination tables, diagnostic testing equipment

Accreditation requirements

- Run by accredited General Practice
- Willingness to comply with compulsory infection control training and external quality assurance procedures

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