Introduction

National, state and local health services are meeting the challenge of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) infection. As the situation is rapidly evolving, advice and resources for clinicians and the public are also changing to meet needs. Health workers (HWs) should check the NSW Health COVID-19 and the Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19 web pages for the most up-to-date information.

Pop-up, drive-through and mobile van COVID-19 screening clinics have been rapidly established to promote testing within the community and increase local testing capacity. The purpose of this document is to provide specific and practical infection prevention and control guidance for HWs, healthcare students and volunteers working in these COVID-19 screening clinics.

Key Resources:
1. NSW Health Guideline for COVID-19 screening clinics (drive-through, pop-up and mobile van)
2. Application of PPE in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic V2.1
4. COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Advice for Health Workers V3
5. Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Security Staff V2

Infection Prevention and Control Principles

When establishing drive-through, pop-up or mobile van COVID-19 screening clinics, it is important to consult with the local infection prevention and control team and to consider a range of primary infection prevention and control practices.

Physical set up of the screening clinic

- Location and workflow of the clinic
- Ventilation for enclosed pop-up clinics (established or temporary building or a pop-up tent).
- Set up that enables physical distancing of > 1.5 metres wherever possible
- Signage to direct and inform patients, control traffic and/or queues, limit speed etc
- Separate areas for HWs to don and doff PPE safely
- Allocated PPE-free zone for a HW break-out area
• Separated and enclosed storage for both used and reprocessed items, i.e. shared patient equipment and PPE. All reusable equipment/items must be reprocessed as per their manufacturer’s instructions for use (IFU).

• Waste collection areas

• Bathrooms for staff

**Equipment/resources/consumables**

• Access to hand hygiene product at the point of use

• Access to equipment to enable specimen collection, security of specimens and access for pathology couriers to collect specimens

• Uniform and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements and variations required for different weather conditions, operational hours, drive-through vs walk-in clinics

• Access to PPE for **standard** and **transmission-based** precautions

• Access to products to enable routine and enhanced environmental cleaning

• Access to products to enable cleaning of shared patient care equipment (including chairs) after each use

• Access to resources for appropriate patient information

**Staffing**

• Allocation and delineation of various HW roles

• Orientation and education program for HWs in the pop-up clinic on infection prevention and control

• Ensure HWs have the training and resources to enable good practice in taking swabs

• Adequate security for HW safety

• HWs use contact/droplet precautions for specimen collection

• HWs who can maintain a distance > 1.5m from a patient, apply standard precautions and surgical mask

• Protocol to ensure that if a patient has a continuous and uncontrollable cough, HWs do not perform a swab, instead refer them to the nearest Emergency Department (hospital) for assessment and testing.
While wearing a mask

**Do not:**

- Touch your mask when you are wearing it to avoid self-contamination
- Pull your mask below your nose or mouth
- Leave hanging around the neck
- Touch your face

If you need to remove PPE, including the mask: perform hand hygiene, remove and discard mask and other PPE into the general waste bin. The correct removal sequence and hand hygiene to be followed for each step.

**Do:**

- Change your mask when it becomes moist
- Change your mask and eye protection if sprayed or splashed on
- Clean your hands if you accidentally touch your mask.
- Clean your hands before you don a mask
- Clean your hands before and after you doff (remove) a mask
- Remove and dispose all single use and/or clean unused reusable PPE:
  - when contaminated and/or damaged
  - before going to the bathroom
  - before taking refreshment breaks
  - before leaving/moving between clinic zones
  - at the end of the shift

**High visibility apparel**

High visibility (high-vis) apparel may be required for safety of HWs working in outdoor environments such as COVID-19 drive-through clinics where:

- There is movement of machinery (motor vehicles)
- The clinic is open during evening or night-time hours
- Protection from the weather

High-vis apparel is protective equipment for highlighting the physical location of a person/object. High-vis apparel is not

- a hierarchy of control for infection prevention and control strategies
- intended for standard, contact and droplet precautions
- protecting HWs from exposure to transmissible infections, such as SARS-CoV-2.

The workflow should consider who performs the administration role (e.g. traffic control) and clinical role to ensure appropriate utilisation of PPE. High-vis apparel should be allocated to HWs responsible for directing traffic and/or where their work location requires high visibility.

It is recommended HWs collecting specimens or assessing patients within 1.5 metres do not wear high-vis apparel. This will avoid added risk for self and cross-contamination between patient interactions and during doffing.

If high-vis apparel is worn over PPE, it must be cleaned and disinfected (reprocessed) on removal, following the manufacturer's instructions for use. Once removed, high-vis apparel must not be reapplied until reprocessing has occurred and the apparel is dry.

Collecting specimens

When collecting respiratory specimen transmission-based precautions should be observed whether or not respiratory symptoms are present. For more information see Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units SARS-CoV-2 Laboratory testing information and Infection Prevention and Control Management of COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings Version 3.2

Further online information is available at:

• Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Management and Assessment of Acute Respiratory Illness Flow Chart
• NSW Health self-isolation guidelines for people suspected to have COVID-19 infection

More detail can be sourced from key NSW and national sources:

• NSW Infection Prevention and Control Practice Handbook
• National COVID-19 updates – Department of Health
• CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health - Coronavirus Disease 2019 The Application of PPE in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic