

7 April 2020

COVID-19 Members Update

The new coronavirus, COVID-19 spreading across the world is rapidly changing the way we live and interact. Most of us have never experienced the strict travel and physical distancing measures before. While these rules are hard to accept, they will save lives and this is being demonstrated as the spread of COVID-19 in Australia is beginning to slow. But, to get the virus under control we all need to keep living this way for an unforeseeable period of time.

For our Mob this is an unsettling time, many people are anxious and concerned. As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners working on the frontline you hold major responsibility for the health care needs of our peoples. You are needed now more than ever before. The slowing of the spread of the virus gives everybody a little bit more time to ensure they are prepared in the event of a major outbreak. You need to keep yourself informed and know the testing and patient management and isolation procedures developed for your location.

You also need to understand how to keep yourself safe. If you have not participated in the COVID-19 infection control training, please make the time to do it today. The course can be found at: <https://covid-19training.gov.au/> and is counted towards your CPD hours. We have also been working with NAACHO on the delivery of a contract tracing training in the mist of COVID-19 in a safe work environment. Understanding how to track and trace people with COVID-19 will be an important mechanism to help stop the virus if it starts to spread – it is vitally important that you participate if asked to attend.

Lastly, to help keep you safe Medicare item numbers now include video/telehealth services have been expanded which are in the below diagram 1 in **Blue**. A range of services that you deliver are covered under these arrangements. We have updated the flow chart attached to show you which of these are specifically applicable to you. Our new COVID-19 website is also up and running and we will continue to keep this updated with the latest updates to keep you informed.

Thank you for helping to keep our communities safe. We appreciate the work that are you doing.

The NATSIHWA Team

Diagram 1

