

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR WEST COAST RESIDENTS

COVID-19 continues to dominate the news and be of concern in our community. We all need to do our bit to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Whilst current cases are linked to the NWRH – we know there have been cases in the North West community. I have some important messages for you all and we are all relying on each other to prevent further cases and an outbreak in this area.

I also want to encourage all workers in our mines, construction, aquaculture, engineering and other essential roles including customer facing services to get tested. Discuss this with your boss if you need time off to get a test and don't go to work if you are unwell.

The testing bus visited the West Coast for one day recently. I have been working with the Government to get a testing bus back to the West Coast, hopefully stopping in most major towns. Additional testing buses are currently being fitted out and staffed to facilitate this. I will advise you as soon as I can when the bus will be returning.

In the meantime, if anyone in the West Coast Community have any respiratory symptoms, a cough, snuffle or runny nose, a fever, headaches or sore throat, please call your GP or the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 to make an appointment. If you are in a job where you work closely with others or deal with the public you should also seek testing.

Until the bus returns you may need to travel to Burnie or get tested by your GP if available.



When you call to book you will be asked questions about your individual circumstances to promote effective prioritisation. You can also call a day or two later if you haven't been booked for a test and you develop symptoms.

When you have a test confirmed, you will need to wait for a call back from Tasmanian Health Service staff with a time of your test – please be patient as this can take a couple of days at times of high demand.

In the meantime - PLEASE:

- Stay home
- Don't go to work
- Only leave home for essential supplies – food, medical care, daily exercise on your own or with one other or for testing.
- Don't visit your mates during this period – doing so may result in you bringing the virus back to your family.

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR WEST COAST RESIDENTS

- Especially don't visit your sick mate or friend – they will not only be vulnerable to COVID-19 but if they have any flu like symptoms need to be tested and in isolation until they have a negative result.
- If we all get this right we will see restrictions begin to be lifted – but not until we are sure we have this under control. This will only be achieved if we all do the right thing.
- Get tested while the bus is in Smithton – saves travel time.

It is important to know that it takes 2-3 days for the results to come back so please self-isolate before your test and until you get a negative test if you have any symptoms at all.

Stay home – don't risk the health and welfare of yourself and your family.

If you have even mild symptoms or work with others or work in a customer service role - get tested – it costs nothing and only takes a minute or two!

