

COVID-19 – Information for Patients attending The Digestive Health Centre

The Digestive Health Centre is following all DHHS, Commonwealth, GESA, NSQHS and other official recommendations to respond to the current outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). We have stringent infection control procedures to ensure the safety of our staff, patients and visitors.

As part of the COVID-19 response, National Cabinet have agreed that as of Monday 27 April 2020 Category 1, Category 2 and urgent Category 3 gastroscopies and colonoscopies can be performed. This announcement provides relief for our patients and the team here at Digestive Health as any further delay placed on elective surgeries could have resulted in worsened health outcomes, increased anxiety and also reduced social and economic productivity.

Only Category 1, Category 2 and some exceptional Category 3 procedures will continue at The Digestive Health Centre until further notice. Our consulting services are in full operation and are being provided to patients via Telehealth (see overleaf for booking instructions). This includes our paediatric and allied health professionals.

In the interests of patient and staff safety, and to reduce COVID-19 in the broader community we have put a range of measures and precautions in place.

These include:

- Screening of our staff
- Social distancing practiced throughout the facility
- Additional cleaning and sanitation measures have been implemented
- Placement of extra Hand hygiene products around the facility
- Screening patients and visitors in order to provide safe care
- Limiting visitors/carer access
- Equipping our Endoscopists, Anaesthetists and Nurses with appropriate personal protective equipment
- Offering Telehealth (phone) consultations for all patients
- Conducting pre admission nurse consultations over the phone instead of face to face
- Preparation instructions are emailed to all patients undergoing a procedure
OR Preparation kits are posted, time allowing
- Offering cashless transactions.
- Providing through post procedure follow up calls

At the Digestive Health Centre, your Digestive Health is our priority. As we all navigate our way through this pandemic you can be assured that we will continue to provide the best quality of care to all of our patients.

Are you concerned you may have COVID-19

- If you have mild symptoms, call your GP
- You may wish to attend your closest emergency department if:
 1. You are experiencing symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, breathing difficulties or wheezing, headache or any other signs or symptoms of respiratory infection AND
 2. You have travelled overseas in the past two weeks OR
 3. You have been in contact with someone who has confirmed COVID-19

For more detailed, specific information regarding COVID-19 transmission and risks you can call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on **1800 020 080**. You may also find the following websites helpful;

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

www.safetyandquality.gov.au

<https://www.gesa.org.au/resources/covid-19>