

Living with COVID-19 Update

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Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN**

We will commence at 12.30 pm



phn
DARLING DOWNS
AND WEST MORETON

An Australian Government Initiative

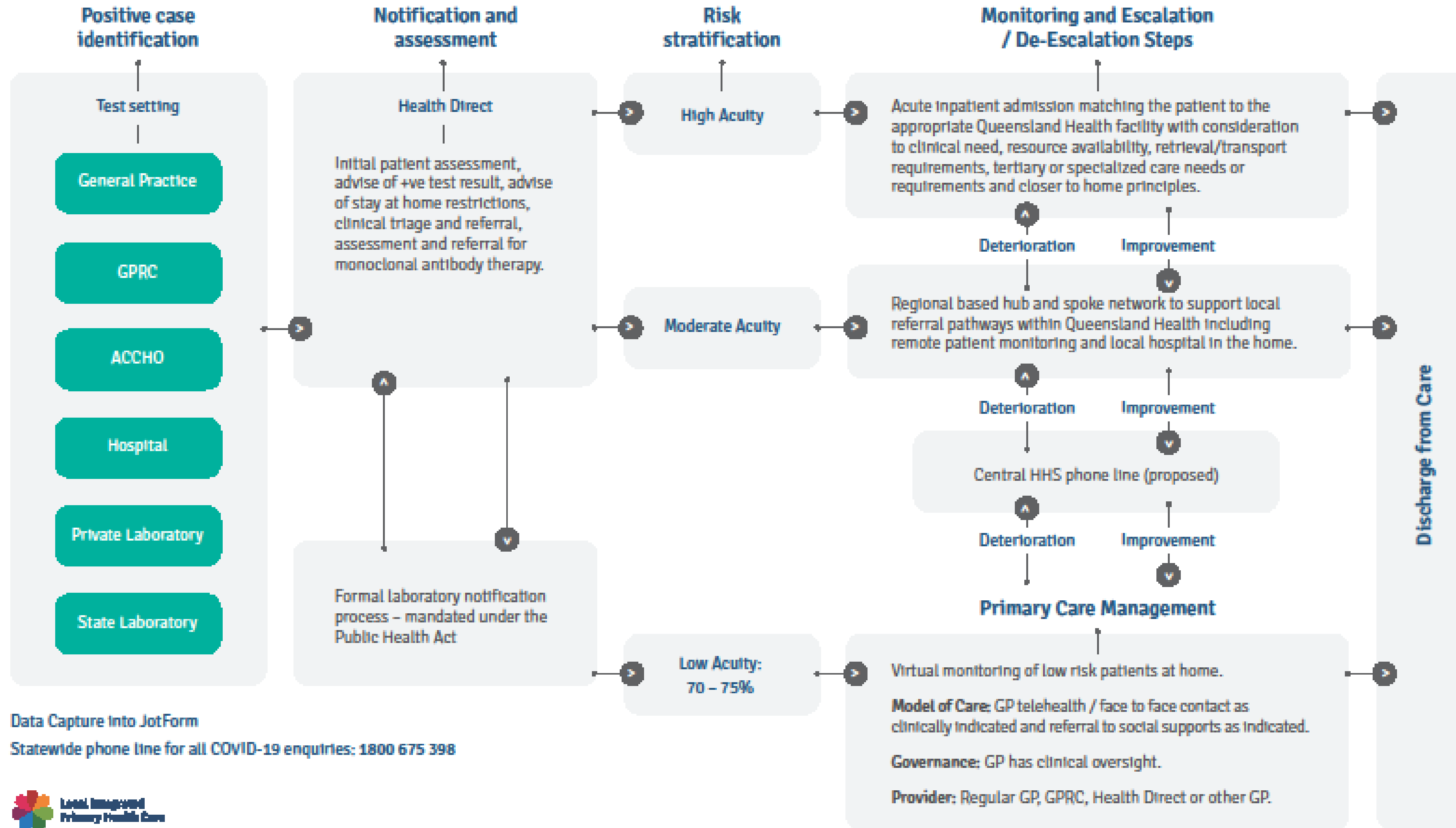


Local Integrated
Primary Health Care

Model of Care – What we know so far

- When people test positive to COVID-19 the PHU will be notified and a referral to Health Direct made.
- Health Direct is being commissioned across Australia to notify people of their positive test, provide first pass triage and facilitate referral to primary health (nominated treating doctor in the first instance or other GP's).
- Experience from NSW and Victoria suggests that the majority of care will be provided via Telehealth with a low threshold for escalation of care to the HHS.
- As per the RACGP Home-care Guidelines for patients with COVID-19 “face to face consultations should be limited to when absolutely necessary.”
- *Face to Face assessment of COVID-positive people was not undertaken by Primary Health in Victoria or NSW.*
- Face to Face care of non Covid-19 related conditions that cannot be delayed (i.e. wound management, etc) may be required or can be referred of to a PHN Commissioned Home Visiting Service.

Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN COVID-19 Pathway



Data Capture into JotForm

Statewide phone line for all COVID-19 enquiries: 1800 675 398



Who is likely to be referred to Primary Health?

- Likely to reflect the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce guidelines, that is:
- Individuals with no clinical features suggestive of moderate or severe disease or a complicated course of illness.

Characteristics:

- No symptoms, or
- Mild upper respiratory tract symptoms, or
- Cough, new myalgia or lethargy/ weakness without no shortness of breath or a reduction in oxygen saturation.

Psychosocial factors will also be assessed along with risk factors for poor outcomes (Age, vaccine status, pregnant, comorbidities and geographic remoteness)

What if a Home Visit is indicated?

- Home visits **are not** intended for routine monitoring of COVID-19 – predominately telehealth.
- Home visits are by exception, where this will help avoid unnecessary hospitalisation. (E.g. injury, wound dressing, chronic disease management, etc).
- As the treating GP you can undertake this service or choose to utilise the Commissioned Home Care Service.
- There is a new \$25 COVID-19 MBS item that can be claimed in addition to existing general consultation items for face to face services for COVID-positive patients.
- Commissioned home services: Currently exploring with a range of providers and also exploring ways that practice nurses could also be utilised to provide this service.

What are the escalation/de-escalation pathways?

- A state wide Community Care Pathway is currently being developed and will be the main mechanism to distribute information around management of COVID positive patients in the community.
- RACGP guidelines already published
- Qld Health developing review points – once known will distribute but likely to be a low threshold for escalation during the early stages.
- De-escalation thresholds and mechanism for hand over to primary care also still to be determined (possibly back to Health Direct?)

What supports are being developed for those GPs that support COVID-positive patients in the community?

- Where indicated oximeters can be provided to patients for use in their homes – details still to come.
- A patient information pack developed by the PHN.
- Health Direct to provide patient directed monitoring in the after hours.
- PPE provided as indicated from the National Stockpile – details still to come.
- Connection with Social Supports.
- Orientation pack for GP's supporting COVID-positive patients.

All currently under development and subject to change.

What supports are being developed for those GPs that support COVID-positive patients in the community?

- PHN will be approaching practices to gauge your interest to treat COVID-positive patients in the community – both your own and/or patients who don't have a regular GP.
- Developing modules to help guide planning on preparing your practice.

Thank you for joining us.

Keep up to date and follow us on:



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