

HUNTER NEW ENGLAND LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Media Release



Date: 23 July 2020

Public Health Alert - Additional COVID-19 cases confirmed in the Port Stephens area

Three new COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in the Port Stephens area, each of these new cases are close contacts of the man in his 60s announced earlier this week and are now in isolation. They include:

- a child under 10
- a child under 2, and
- a man in his 30s

Hunter New England Local Health District is urging anyone who visited the following locations to be on the lookout for COVID-19 symptoms and get tested immediately should any respiratory symptoms or fever occur:

- Salamander Bay Village Woolworths on 17 July between 2.30pm to closing time, 18 July between 4pm to closing time, 19 July between 12.45pm to closing time, and 20 July between 3pm to closing time.
- The Fingal Bay Café and Takeaway (4 Market Street) 17 July between 11.30am – 12 midday.

The Woolworths store has been deep cleaned overnight with extra attention to touch points. The Café has also been thoroughly cleaned and there is no ongoing risk to the community at this venue.

The child under 10 attended Tomaree Public School, and the child under two attended the Goodstart Early Learning Centre at Anna Bay this week. The child care centre, school, and the co-located Tomaree High School have been closed and deep cleaning is underway. All close contacts of the children will be notified and required to isolate for 14 days.

Dr David Durrheim, Public Health Controller for Hunter New England Health's COVID-19 response said that Hunter New England Health is still working to identify any further contacts or venues visited by these new cases, and further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

"If you were at the Salamander Bay Village Woolworths on 17, 18, 19 or 20 July, or Fingal Bay Café on 17 July, you may be at risk of infection and you must be tested for COVID-19 even if you have the mildest of respiratory symptoms.

"It is vital people continue to present for testing if experiencing symptoms to limit the spread of the virus.

"I encourage everyone to follow directions they receive about home isolation and quarantine, and maintain COVID-safe practices of physical distancing, coughing or sneezing into their elbow, and regularly washing their hands," he said.

Hunter New England Health will open an additional COVID-19 testing clinic in Tomaree later today at the Tomaree Sports Complex (20 Aquatic Close, Nelson Bay).

The three lane drive through clinic will then operate 8am-4pm seven days, however hours will be extended as required to meet demand.

To make an appointment for the HNE Health Tomaree Drive Through Clinic or Tomaree Community Hospital Clinic, please call 4964 7497 between 8am-4pm.

"We are experiencing a very high volume of calls so please be patient when calling to book an appointment. If the clinic you are hoping to visit is busy, you can find other local options by visiting the NSW Health website or your GP," Dr Durrheim said.

The Laverty Pathology COVID-19 Clinic also continues to be available at Tomaree Community Hospital from 8.30am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. Please visit your GP for a pathology referral prior to attending this clinic.

"This additional clinic increases our testing capability significantly. We are currently seeing between 300-400 people at our hospital clinic, with the on-site Laverty Clinic experiencing similar numbers. We anticipate this same amount again will attend the Drive Through each day," Dr Durrheim said.