

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Coronavirus concerns

Dear Member,

Due to member concerns in relation to staff safety and the setting up of a Coronavirus screening centre at RPA, your HSU representatives have been communicating with RPA management.

In response to the concerns raised by the HSU, RPA management have provided the Union with the attached outline of protections being put in place for staff.

As with any safety issue, the HSU takes these concerns very seriously.

The HSU is still seeking further information on a number of safety concerns we raised.

Any HSU member with any further concerns or questions related to this issue should email publichealth@hsu.asn.au.

We can only raise safety issues on behalf of HSU members. Encourage your workmates to join today at www.hsu.asn.au/join or call the Union on 1300 478 679.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD



Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary HSU NSW/ACT/QLD
Locked Bag 3
AUSTRALIA SQUARE NSW 1215

Via email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr ~~Hayes~~ *Gerard*

I write to provide you with information concerning actions that have been taken at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) in respect of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

On Thursday 30 January 2020, a screening clinic was established for patients presenting to the RPA Emergency Department (ED) with suspected Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The clinic is a dedicated space and is staffed by ED clinicians, Monday – Friday, 08:00 – 20:00 hours. Signage has been placed at the front of the hospital to direct the patients to the Clinic.

To facilitate the clinic, all appropriate measures are being taken across RPA Hospital to protect our staff, our patients and visitors against any potential transmission of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), including the following.

- As of 30 January 2020, the RPA Gym is closed for a two (2) week period;
- Staff from the Clinical School have been relocated for this period;
- Staff of the Medical Training & Administration (MTA) Unit were advised of the temporary placement of the clinic and advised of the appropriate entry and exit routes during this period;
- The main entrance sharing the corridor is closed during this time;
- Environmental Services staff have received information and advice from Infection Control in respect of cleaning of the area and the frequency of required cleaning;
- Additional posters are being displayed at all entrances to the Hospital providing information

The RPA Executive during their executive rounding have met with staff of the MTA Unit and staff located in the Hospital's main enquiry counter and some security staff.

In addition to the email communication distributed yesterday morning to all staff to advise them of the above, temporary measures, two information sessions have been held for RPA staff. An information session was held at 11am today to which Environmental Services, Security and Portering staff were invited. An additional briefing session will be held at 3pm today.

Notwithstanding that the risk of infection is low and staff have been reassured that these precautionary measures are being taken to protect our patients, staff and community, I appreciate that staff may feel anxious in relation to these matters. To that end, the HSU's assistance during this period is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Dr Teresa Anderson AM
Chief Executive

Date: 31 January 2020