

## Welcome to the April edition of Alfred Health GP news

Please contact us with any queries on 9076 2620, or email us at [gp.liaison@alfred.org.au](mailto:gp.liaison@alfred.org.au)

The GP Liaison team hopes everyone is keeping safe and in good spirits during this challenging time. We will continue to provide regular updates on COVID-19 as changes occur throughout the health service.

### COVID-19 update

#### COVID-19 Screening Clinic

The Alfred COVID-Screening clinic moved on **Thursday 9 April** to the hospital's helipad car park – next to the hospital's emergency department.

For more information regarding the screening clinic, please [click here](#).

#### Correct PPE application and removal

Correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is vital to ensuring safety of staff and patients. Alfred Health have produced a short, helpful video demonstrating how to correctly put on and take off PPE.

The video can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkoe\\_o5ZMc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkoe_o5ZMc&feature=youtu.be) or search YouTube for Alfred Health TV 'COVID-19 PPE application and removal'.

#### Reduction in OP activity

As part of our COVID-19 response plan, significant changes have been made to Alfred Health's Specialist Clinic (Outpatient) services.

This means services will be limited to urgent patients only, and where possible Alfred Health will be delivering care through telehealth to reduce face-to-face contact.

#### Resources for GPs – HealthPathways Melbourne

GPs in Alfred Health's area now have access to evidence based, up to date information regarding COVID-19 via HealthPathways.

The following COVID-19 pathways are now available on HealthPathways Melbourne:

- Practice preparation
- Assessment and management
- Child assessment and management
- Referrals and referral advice
- COVID-19 information
- Impact on local services
- COVID-19 recent changes.

These pathways are continuously being updated to reflect current guidelines.

You can access [HealthPathways Melbourne](#) with the following details:

**URL:** <https://melbourne.healthpathways.org.au/>

**Username:** semphn

**Password:** covid

## Comprehensive Epilepsy Program

The Comprehensive Epilepsy Program at The Alfred welcomes your referrals, with all clinics operating to full capacity during the COVID-19 crisis. We recognise the critical importance of patients with epilepsy, or possible epilepsy, continuing to have expert advice regarding their management during this stressful and disruptive time. We are offering telehealth appointments for all patients during the COVID-19 crisis, but also face-to-face appointments if required.

We have four clinics where patients can be seen:

- First seizure clinic
- Alfred epilepsy clinic
- Caulfield epilepsy clinic
- Sandringham neurology clinic

Referral criteria includes:

- Suspected seizure
- New diagnosis of epilepsy (suspected or confirmed)
- Seizures that are not completely controlled with current medications
- Patients who are experiencing side effects or have concerns about their current epilepsy treatment
- Patients who would like to consider dietary therapy for their epilepsy
- Planning for pregnancy or pregnancy with epilepsy
- Advice on, or review of, epilepsy, epilepsy management plan including driving assessment for commercial drivers, changes to medication, the management of epilepsy with concurrent conditions.

As well as the patient's demographics and contact details, please include the following in your referral as per the statewide referral criteria for specialist clinics:

- Onset, characteristics and frequency of seizures
- If the patient is pregnant.

Results if available:

- EEG
- Neuroimaging
- Current and complete medication history and recent therapeutic medication levels.

Please fax your referral to The Alfred Specialist Clinics on **03 9076 6938**.

For enquiries relating to this service please call 9076 0863.

## Travel Medicine Masterclass

The Travel Medicine Masterclass is a two-day short course designed for GPs, nurses and others providing healthcare and advice to travellers. The course is facilitated by travel medicine experts from The Alfred, Royal Melbourne and Royal Children's Hospitals, and aims to provide practical guidance on management of travellers before and after travel. Sessions are interactive and include case-based discussions with a focus on pre-travel vaccines, management of malaria chemoprophylaxis, and other common travel-associated health issues.

Registration is \$1100, and includes a course booklet and digital resources.

RACGP Accreditation for 2020 is currently in progress.

**Dates:** Thursday 30 April - Friday 1 May 2020

**Venue:** This session will now be an online interactive symposium to reduce COVID-19 transmission risk.

To register and for further information go to <https://www.monash.edu/healthed-institute/short-courses/travel-medicine-masterclass>.

## Victorian Integrated Care training resources

The Department of Health and Human Services is excited to launch the third of six online resources which extend the support available for those with an interest in implementing and supporting high quality integrated care in their local network. The resources are designed to be completed at a self-determined pace allowing you to learn gradually, reflect on your current health services and care provision, plan for any improvements and incrementally implement your learning as you progress through the resources. The resources can be accessed [here](#).

## GP Liaison Service at Alfred Health – we are here to help!



Our GP Liaison team – Tracey O’Connell (Victorian Integrated Care Model Project Manager/GP Liaison), Mandi Van Beveren (GP Liaison - EReferral), Dr Josie Samers (GP Consultant) and Amelia Matlock (eReferral Lead) – are here to assist you in navigating Alfred Health.

As our team are currently assisting with the response to the COVID-19 crisis, please email your queries to [gp.liaison@alfred.org.au](mailto:gp.liaison@alfred.org.au) and we will reply as soon as possible. We appreciate your understanding that there may be delays at this time.

*If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please email us at [gp.liaison@alfred.org.au](mailto:gp.liaison@alfred.org.au)*