



Dear colleagues,

We're observing a significant increase in individuals seeking treatment for acute respiratory illnesses, particularly influenza. Dr John Gerard, Chief Health Officer, has indicated widespread influenza outbreaks across significant areas of the state, notably in the southeast. Consequently, we need to prepare for a potential rise in associated illnesses, including a growing number of COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus cases. Based on our modelling, we anticipate heightened activity in Metro North starting from late July.

Therefore, Metro North has made a planned transition to Tier 2 in our Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan from today.

All staff are strongly encouraged to:

- Continue wearing masks in clinical areas, following [PPE guidelines](#).
- Ensure their flu and COVID vaccinations are up to date, along with annual fit testing.
- Maintain compliance with mandatory training programs.
- Stay home if feeling unwell and promptly inform your line manager of any sick leave via the Smart Leave form on MyHR.
- Consult with your line manager regarding specific requirements outlined in your local workplace under the Acute Respiratory Illness Response Subplan within your directorate.

For more information, please see the Metro North Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan.

Metro North will shift towards virtual meetings and training whenever feasible. Essential face-to-face training sessions such as OVP, BLS, and ALS will proceed as scheduled.

Visitors will be encouraged to wear masks, sanitise their hands upon entry and exit, and refrain from visiting if they exhibit symptoms of respiratory illness. Masks and hand sanitisers will be available at facility entrances.

We remain vigilant as the next wave of Acute Respiratory Illness could emerge at any moment, even during warmer months. We are committed to continuous monitoring and readiness for any resurgence.

Regards,
Alanna



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Metro North Health acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, and pays respect to Elders, past, present and future.



Produced by the Metro North Communication Directorate

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