

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF NURSING & MIDWIFERY OFFICER

Metro North Health

Adj. Prof. Alanna Geary



Dear colleagues,

Over the past two weeks, we've seen a decline in both attendance and admissions for acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, reflecting state and national patterns. As a result, Metro North will transition to Tier 0 (business as usual) in our Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan, effective Tuesday, 21 January 2025

As we move forward, please continue to be mindful of the following:

- **COVID-19 and Flu Precautions:** Continue wearing masks in clinical areas as per PPE guidelines. Keep your flu and COVID vaccinations up to date, along with your annual fit testing, and stay compliant with mandatory training programs.
- **Stay Home If Unwell:** If you're not feeling well, please take care of yourself by staying home. Notify your line manager and submit your leave request through the Smart Leave form on MyHR.
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough):** Please consider pertussis in patients presenting with a cough, particularly if it is paroxysmal, prolonged, or associated with post-tussive vomiting — regardless of age or vaccination status.

Visitors will still be encouraged to wear masks, use hand sanitiser, and avoid visiting if they have respiratory symptoms. Masks and hand sanitiser will be available at facility entrances.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely, as there's always the potential for a new wave of acute respiratory illness. Additionally, we expect a rise in influenza activity in June 2025, peaking in August 2025. Rest assured, we remain committed to staying prepared and vigilant.

Thank you all for your hard work, resilience, and positive attitude. I'm incredibly proud to be part of such a dedicated and amazing team.

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.



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