

The situation with COVID-19 is changing in Australia quickly. As a Support Provider, we are preparing for a wide range of outcomes. Our priorities are to keep the people we support and GCSS employees' safe, so we can continue providing our support services and to ensure that GCSS doesn't contribute to the spread of COVID-19.

The best defence for COVID-19 remains good hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, and to isolate when unwell.

On Tuesday 3rd February, at the Practice Leaders Meeting, we briefed Practice Leaders on the first phase of action required of GCSS staff.

1. Hygiene

- Please refer to the attached brochures for hand washing, cough and sneezing instructions
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as infections spread that way.
- Avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- Review GCSS infection control policies, procedures and practices with staff to ensure are implementing them.

2. Self-Isolate

- Don't go to work if you are unwell and don't send your children to school or childcare if they are unwell. Seek medical attention.

3. Returning (or contact with people returning) from overseas

- If travelling overseas the Federal Health Dept. has a long list of countries that staff will need to either socially isolate or quarantine for 14 days on your return. These conditions may effect a staff member's ability to return to work immediately after travel. Please contact your manager prior to returning to work to arrange a return to work plan.
- If staff have been in contact with confirmed cases of novel coronavirus you need to self-quarantine for 14 days and not attend work.
- If staff have been in contact with someone returning from one of those countries, and experience symptoms then staff need to self-quarantine until tested for COVID 19 and results received (2-3 days). Testing is through your GP or other testing centre. Call ahead before attending and inform them of symptoms, any travel history and concerns.
- If you think you may be at risk of infection of with coronavirus please raise this with your Practice Leader or Manager immediately.

4. Other Planning and Preparations

- GCSS is putting in planning and preparations including maintaining a stock of essential equipment. Gloves, sanitiser etc.
- GCSS has been in regular contact with our Peak organisation, NDS, as well as consulting with our Primary Health Network (PHN), NDIS Quality and Safe Guards Commission, Disability Services Commissioner, Office of the Public Advocate, Office of Senior Practitioner (Disability) to plan our best course of action.

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Note: We'll keep you update as new developments occur