

COVID Safety Plan

For SC4C Practices & Project team

September 2021

Dear Participating General Practice,

The *Strengthening Care for Children* (SC4C) project team is dedicated to the health, safety, and wellbeing of all participants in the project including GPs, practice staff and patients. We recognise that this is a challenging time for general practice and acknowledge that additional precautions are required to ensure this project operates safely in your practice.

As you may already know, the SC4C paediatricians work in patient-facing roles at multiple locations including the outpatient clinics at the Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Health and other SC4C practices in Tarneit, Coburg, Sunbury, Hillside, Essendon, Flemington, Truganina, Werribee and Caroline Springs.

Thus, we wish to share with you the project's COVID safety commitment and plan to minimise exposure and reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19. We endeavour to work closely with you to make this project a success whilst prioritising the safety and comfort of all involved.

Our Safety Commitment

At all times, SC4C project team members (Dr. Victoria McKay, Dr Laura Marco, Jane Le, Stephanie Germano & Stephanie Newman) that visit your practice will:

- be fully vaccinated (two doses) against COVID-19
- take booster vaccination(s) against COVID-19 when they are eligible
- scan QR codes to check-in to your practice
- record dates and times they visit your practice
- wear face masks indoors and when a 1.5m distance cannot be maintained
- follow your practice's required screening protocols
- follow your practice's infection control processes including maintaining hand hygiene by using hand sanitiser upon entering your practice
- comply with their employer COVID-safety and infection control policies (e.g., paediatricians – the Royal Children's Hospital, Jane Le, Stephanie Newman and Sonia Khano - Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Stephanie Germano – North-Western Primary Health Network (NWMPHN). This may include various measures changing depending on risk-rating:
 - use of personal protective equipment (PPE): face masks, eye protection (goggles, face shields), gloves, gown
 - avoiding hotspot locations with a high number of exposure sites
 - requesting your practice to adapt the model of care to telehealth & online
- adhere to the Victorian Government's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) guidelines for appropriate use of PPE for the Victorian health sector during the COVID-19 pandemic response as per the government's COVID risk rating and detailed in

NOTE - this plan does not represent Victorian government advice and was developed for the SC4C project only. It is subject to change based on public health advice from the Victorian DHHS, Royal Children's Hospital or Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

September
2021

We expect all project team members and participating practices will take reasonable steps to follow this COVID safety plan and respect each other's individual wishes to take any additional safety precautions beyond this plan.

Notification of potential or confirmed COVID-19 exposure

- When the SC4C project team is aware of a potential exposure or confirmed COVID-19 positive case of a member that has visited your practice, within the same business day we will directly contact your practice manager or practice by phone. If not successful, we will leave a voicemail or SMS and email. see table below
- When a participating practice is aware of a potential exposure or confirmed COVID-19 case that may have come in contact with one of the SC4C's project team members, they will directly call the project manager Jane Le (0433 974 416), NWMPHN project officer Stephanie Germano (0434 783 336) or Prof. Harriet Hiscock (0438 420 116) via phone. If unsuccessful, they will leave a voicemail or SMS and email strengtheningcare@mcri.edu.au

In the above cases, the project team will discuss with practice management any changes to the delivery of the project (see table below). To monitor exposure risks, the SC4C project team and participating practice will monitor the DHHS exposure site list:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites>

This COVID safety plan should be considered in conjunction with the documents below:

- Attachment A: MCRI COVID-Safe subplan for this project
- Attachment B:
- Attachment C:

COVID-Safe delivery of the SC4C model of care

The below table is a guide for the SC4C project team to discuss with participating practices, options to modify the delivery of the model of care, in response to Victorian government risk ratings. The SC4C project team will work closely with practices to discuss how and if changes will be made on a case-by-case basis, considering the specific risk levels and comfort of both participating practices and the SC4C project team.

NOTE - this plan does not represent Victorian government advice and was developed for the SC4C project only. It is subject to change based on public health advice from the Victorian DHHS, Royal Children's Hospital or Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

September
2021

Table 1 - COVID-Safety plan for components of the SC4C model of care

		Strengthening Care for Children - Project Component		
		Co-consultations	Case discussions	Family surveys
Victorian DHHS Risk Rating	COVID Ready	In-person with appropriate PPE as per the DoH	In-person with appropriate PPE as per the DHHS	In-person with appropriate PPE as per the DHHS
	COVID Alert	In-person with appropriate PPE as per the DoH Consider telehealth (2-way: GP & paediatrician together) when exposure sites are identified within approximately 10km of the general practice or paediatrician work locations	In-person with appropriate PPE as per the DHHS Consider online case discussions	In-person with appropriate PPE as per the DHHS Consider reduced in-person surveying (days, hours) when exposure sites are identified within approximately 10km of the general practice or project team member's work locations
	COVID Active	Telehealth (2-way, GP & Paediatrician together) preferred. Telehealth (3-way) preferred when exposure sites are identified within approximately 5km of the general practice or paediatrician work locations	Online preferred	Non-face-to-face options (SMS and QR codes) preferred.
	COVID Peak	Telehealth (3-way) preferred, with other options to be discussed.	Online preferred	Non-face-to-face options (SMS and QR codes) preferred

If you have any questions regarding this plan, please contact strengtheningcare@mcri.edu.au

NOTE - this plan does not represent Victorian government advice and was developed for the SC4C project only. It is subject to change based on public health advice from the Victorian DHHS, Royal Children's Hospital or Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

**September
2021**