

Hume and Whittlesea receive breath of fresh air with new covid-19 respiratory clinics

Two new General Practice (GP) Respiratory Clinics are now open at DPV Health Medical Centres in Broadmeadows and Mill Park. The GP Respiratory Clinics provide support to people who are suffering from respiratory symptoms such as Asthma, Pneumonia, COPD, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or runny nose, and means they do not have to spend hours waiting at a hospital emergency department.

DPV Health and Victorian Primary Health Networks have collaborated with the Victorian Government to help people access assessment for respiratory symptoms, symptomatic testing and treatment close to where they live, without going to hospital. The collaboration of this initiative will help ease the load on hospitals by reducing emergency department presentations and avoidable visits to hospital.

The services are available to those with or without a Medicare card, at no cost to the client and operate after hours.

'DPV Health is pleased to offer further COVID supports to our community. Operating 7 days/week, the GP Respiratory Clinics in Broadmeadows and Mill Park will assist people to stay safe through this pandemic, whilst reducing the demand on hospital emergency departments', said CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Don Tidbury.

'Staffed by nurses and GPs, people can attend our services in the evening or weekends at a time that suits them either through a prebooked appointment or walk up', he said. *'We are very thankful to the Victorian Government and the PHNs (Primary Health Networks) for enabling this valuable service.'*

COVID safe measures are in place to ensure the health, safety, and ease of access to those attending. These include: QR registration, phone-based interpreting services, staff in full PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), social distancing, air ventilation, cleaning, and instructions for clients to stay in their vehicle until ready to be seen.

The clinics do not provide COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic patients. If you do not have respiratory symptoms and require a COVID-19 test only, an appropriate testing location can be found at <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19>.

Online or phone bookings can be made and walk ins are also available without a referral.

To make a General Practice Respiratory Clinic booking call 1300 234 263, (select option 1). For more information or to book online head to <https://www.dpvhealth.org.au/all-services/respiratory-clinic/>.

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DPV Health is a not-for-profit organisation that offers exceptional health, disability and social services to people of all ages across the cities of Hume and Whittlesea. As one of Victoria's largest & most comprehensive community health organisations, DPV Health provides an extensive rang



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