

General practice respiratory clinics: winter 2022 communications pack

Newsletter/website content

Article 3

Target audience: councils/maternal child health services, kindergartens and other childcare providers

Cold, flu or COVID? GP respiratory clinics can provide face-to-face treatment for babies, infants, children, and the childcare workforce

Melbourne's hospitals are under pressure.

Flu season is here, COVID-19 is continuing to circulate, and we are seeing higher levels of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and other respiratory viruses than at any time since 2019.

It is crucial that we direct people with mild respiratory issues to the right care this year, without placing unnecessary pressure on hospitals.

Children and parents with runny noses, a scratchy throat, a sore ear, itchy eyes, a mild cough, or other cold, flu or COVID-like symptoms should see a GP.

If their usual GP can't see them face to face, appointments are available at [general practice respiratory clinics](#) (GPRCs), which operate at many locations across metropolitan Melbourne. They are free for people of all ages – with or without a Medicare card. Most clinics are available after-hours and on weekends.

Please save hospitals for emergencies only.

Please help inform childcare workers and parents visiting your facilities of this urgent request. These resources are available to help you:

- [Posters](#)
- [Social media tiles](#)
- [Social media messages \(.pdf\)](#)

Visit nwmphn.org.au/gprcs for more information including booking links, opening hours and a map of all GPRCs in metropolitan Melbourne.

If you or your child has severe trouble breathing, blueness around the mouth, chest pains, or pain in the arms or jaw, call triple zero (000) for urgent help.