

# COVID-19 Update for NSW Disability Providers

Webinar 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020



DISCLAIMER: Please note that the situation with COVID-19 is constantly changing. Whilst advice and information provided in this webinar was current at the time, viewers should consult the NSW Health website for the most up to date advice.

Advice for the NSW community: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

Advice for the NSW disability sector: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/disability-support.aspx>

# Presenters:



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# NDS Webinar: COVID-19 for NSW Disability Providers

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# NSW Health Response during COVID-19

NSW Health has dedicated strategies to support people with disability to align with the **National Management and Operational Plan for People with Disability** - <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/05/management-and-operational-plan-for-people-with-disability-short-form-version-of-the-management-and-operational-plan-for-people-with-disability.pdf>

These strategies include:

- establishment of the **Disability Community of Practice** (<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/communities-of-practice/Pages/disability.aspx>) with representation from the sector including those with lived experience.
- NSW Health has provided lists of NDIS participants who are clinically ready for discharge from NSW Hospitals, and is working closely with the NDIA and newly appointed Hospital Liaison Officers (HLOs) to **secure appropriate support for participants** and **expedite safe discharge into the community**.
- NSW Health continues to collate and circulate **a register of SIL and SDA provider vacancies for distribution to our LHD/SHNs**.
- Collaboration between the Ministry of Health, EnableNSW and NDIA to streamline hospital discharges for NDIS participants requiring **assistive technology and home modifications**.
- All Emergency Departments (ED) are **disability accessible and provide COVID-19 testing**, with ED staff having access to specialist advice, including working closely with families, carers and service providers, on how to respond effectively to people with disability.
- Health has released **targeted information**, including *Public health guidance for the disability, home care and other personal care services sector*, *Incident Action Plan for a public health response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a group home setting*, fact sheets and FAQs, to provide clear guidance on infection control (available in multiple languages and accessible formats).
- Directions issued under **Public Health Orders have been translated into Easy Read** format and published on NSW Health website to make this advice more accessible to PWD and the community.

# COVID-19 Testing Update

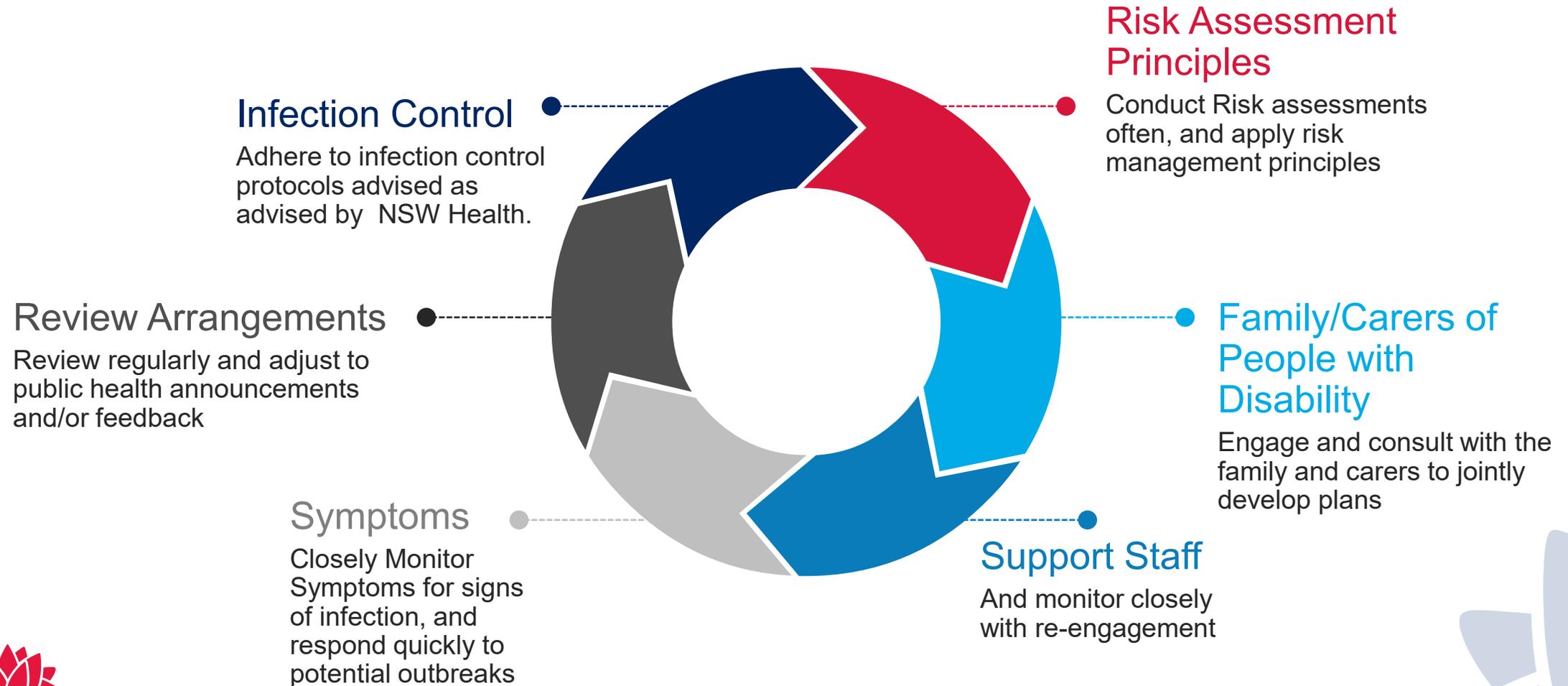
- ▶ Testing remains the highest priority especially given the recent outbreaks in locations across Sydney
- ▶ Anyone with the following symptoms, even mild, should get tested:
  - ▶ fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  or history of night sweats/chills)
  - ▶ cough
  - ▶ sore/scratchy throat
  - ▶ shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)
  - ▶ **loss of sense of smell** (*new criteria*)
  - ▶ **loss of sense of taste** (*new criteria*)
- ▶ **EVERYONE TESTED MUST SELF-ISOLATE** until they get their results
  - ▶ Disability support workers and individuals living in residential care facilities should self-identify they work or live in a high-risk setting so their results can be expedited
- ▶ Testing is recommended for each new episode of illness so you may need multiple tests over winter

## Other things to keep in mind

- ▶ Disability support workers should self-monitor for symptoms
  - ▶ If you develop even mild symptoms, you should:
    - ▶ inform your manager
    - ▶ stay away from all workplaces
    - ▶ get tested and isolate at home until you get your result
- ▶ Providers should consider systems to proactively identify residents, clients and staff with symptoms, for example:
  - ▶ Set up a daily log of symptom screening for residents
  - ▶ Ensure symptom screening of staff at the start of each shift
  - ▶ Ensure symptom screening of anyone else entering a group home/residential facility
- ▶ Ensure procedures and processes are in place to cover staff absences while they seek testing or are in isolation
- ▶ Continue to maintain 1.5 m physical distancing wherever possible and be vigilant about hand and respiratory hygiene, cough etiquette and environmental cleaning

**Take the opportunity now to review all infection control procedures, education and training if this has not been done already**

# CovidSafe - Disability Services



## Best Practice – Mask Wearing

- ▶ Step 1: Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap or a hand sanitizer
- ▶ Step 2: Secure the mask in the middle of the back of your head and neck, or use the elastic to go around the ears
  - ▶ Make sure the mask covers your nose and mouth
- ▶ Step 3: Fix the flexible band to the bridge of your nose with the mask sitting snugly to your face and below your chin.
- ▶ Step 4: While you're wearing a mask, **do not touch the front** or allow it to hang around your neck
- ▶ Step 5: When removing the mask, use the ties or elastics, and be careful not to touch the front of the mask
- ▶ Please be aware:
  - ▶ Do not touch the front of the mask.
  - ▶ If you do touch your mask, wash your hands immediately
  - ▶ If your mask gets wet/damaged, it can no longer do its job, so replace it
  - ▶ Single use masks should not be reused but discarded immediately

# PPE Supplies Portal

<https://buy.nsw.gov.au/news/2020/ppe-supplies-portal-for-industry-and-the-community>

- ▶ Industry buyers such as industry associations, businesses, local governments, private healthcare providers and not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to use the PPE supplier list for industry to secure supplies needed for safe and robust operations in your local communities.
- ▶ The list has over 900 suppliers who have indicated they can service personal protective equipment (PPE) needs through business-to-business transactions. You can search for suppliers by postcode or suppliers' service areas

The screenshot shows a webpage titled "PPE supplies portal for industry and the community". It includes a "Back" link, a "Subscribe to news" button, and a table with the following content:

TYPE	Announcement
CATEGORY	Facility management
	Goods and services
	Office supplies and services

The main content area contains the following text:

ANNOUNCEMENT UPDATED: 29 APR 2020

Over 1700 businesses responded to the Premier's call to help supply medical equipment and hygiene products to our essential services workers.

Suppliers registered to provide a range of personal protective equipment (PPE) products, including hand sanitiser, handwash and soap, gloves, disinfectant, gowns, masks, eyewear and paper products.

### If you need PPE products

**NSW Government buyers** must liaise with their cluster's procurement team to request PPE items via the centralised ordering process as per SEOCON directive.

**Industry buyers** such as industry associations, businesses, local governments, private healthcare providers and not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to use the PPE supplier list for industry to secure supplies needed for safe and robust operations in your local communities.

The list has over 900 suppliers who have indicated they can service personal protective equipment (PPE) needs through business-to-business transactions. You can search for suppliers by postcode or suppliers' service areas.

[Download the PPE supplier list for industry and product factsheets](#)

# Resources

- **Medical assistance**

- Anyone with an unexplained fever or new respiratory symptoms is encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 even if the symptoms are mild. A range of public and private testing options are available:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-clinics.aspx>

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus-testing.aspx>

- Call the National Coronavirus Helpline 1800 020 080 (24-hour help line)
- You can access medical assistance **for other issues** from your GP or hospital emergency department (ED) or by calling **healthdirect** on **1800 022 222** or visit at <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/>.
- If you have a medical emergency call 000.

- **NSW Ministry of Health**

- In NSW calling **1300 066 055** will direct you to your local public health unit. Further information can be found on the NSW Health website - <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/plus.aspx>
- Email questions to the MOH-NDIS Inbox - [MOH-NDIS@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-NDIS@health.nsw.gov.au).

- **NDIA**

- Phone **1800 800 110**, contact your Local Area Coordinator or visit <https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus>.

- **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission**

- Phone **1800 035 544** or visit the website at <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/>.



# Other Useful Resources

- SafeWork NSW - <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/COVID-19-Coronavirus>
- icare - [Fact Sheets https://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/icare-coronavirus-information/covid-19-fact-sheets](https://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/icare-coronavirus-information/covid-19-fact-sheets)
- NDS Member COVID 19 Hub <https://www.nds.org.au/resources/all-resources/coronavirus-covid-19>



# Upcoming Events

- Your Essential Briefing 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
<https://www.nds.org.au/events-and-training/conferences/nds-your-essential-briefing-virtual-event-1-3567>
- Disability at Work International Virtual Conference 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
<https://www.nds.org.au/events-and-training/conferences/disability-at-work-2020-3494>
- NDS Member CEO Meeting 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
<https://www.nds.org.au/events-and-training/conferences/ceos-meeting-2020-3483>



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# Thank you for joining us