Information regarding Coronavirus infection (COVID-19) is updated regularly, and is constantly evolving.

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I at greater risk of acquiring the coronavirus infection?
HIV infection does not increase your risk of contracting coronavirus infection after exposure. However, people with HIV who have a coronavirus infection may be more likely experience more significant symptoms or complications, especially those who are older than 60 years, those with a low CD4 cell count or other chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, lung disease, kidney disease, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?
Symptoms include fever, flu-like illness (cough, sore throat, tiredness) and shortness of breath. Less common are headache, diarrhoea and confusion.

What precautions should I take for my personal protection?
There are personal hygiene measures you can take to reduce the risk of acquiring infection with coronavirus (and some other infections). Good handwashing technique using soap and water is essential. Avoid touching your face and practice sneezing and coughing into your elbow. The use of masks in the community is not recommended in general as they probably only provide marginal benefit over personal hygiene measures.

Should I have the flu and pneumonia vaccinations?
The HIV Service recommends influenza vaccination for everyone when it becomes available in April. The Pneumococcal vaccination is recommended for people with HIV over 60 years, or with chronic lung disease. Neither of these vaccinations will protect you against COVID-19.

Should I have a contingency plan for Antiretroviral Medication?
Have a contingency plan in case of widespread disruptions to medicine supply or illness, and where possible get your medication in advance.

Should I come to my outpatient clinic?
If you have an outpatient appointment, please call us before attending. To minimise visits to our sites, we are currently prioritising urgent appointments. However, please contact us beforehand, so we can determine how best to support you. We may reschedule your appointment to a later date, or use telehealth (i.e. phone or video link consultation) to provide care. Our team will contact you regarding any changes. Your individual care remains paramount, so please contact your Clinic Team if you have any questions. Please also contact us before your appointment if you are subject to quarantine restrictions due to recent international travel or exposure to a confirmed case of coronavirus.

Who should I contact if I have symptoms?
See your GP if you have any symptoms or you are concerned. COVID-19 presents just like other colds or the flu so it is important to get tested.

Should I travel overseas?
Current travel advice is available on Australian Smart Traveller website. If planning to travel consider contacting your travel insurance provider.