CoVID-19: Your Care

MSNI Service

Information for patients with Multiple Sclerosis

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We recommend that you seek information only from credible websites such as:

Alfred Health
www.alfredhealth.org.au

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Australian Government
www.health.gov.au

Australian Smart Traveller
www.smartraveller.gov.au

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Thank you for your enquiry regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19). Information is updated regularly and the MSNI service is in communications with Alfred Health and Infectious Disease Experts to keep you up-to-date.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I travel overseas?
Current travel advice is available on Australian Smart Traveller website. We also suggest if you are planning to travel you contact your travel insurance provider.

What precautions should I take in regards to personal protection?
Please be conscious of personal hygiene measures to reduce the risk of transmission. Good handwashing technique using soap and water is essential. Avoid touching your face and practice sneezing into your elbow.

The use of masks in the community is not warranted at the moment, and 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 MSNI Service recommends flu vaccination for everyone when it becomes available in April. The Pneumococcal vaccination is recommended for people with MS. Neither of these vaccinations will protect you against COVID-19.

Should I have a contingency plan?
Have a contingency plan in case of widespread disruptions or illness, where possible get medication in advance. Please discuss this with your local pharmacist as they will have up to date information in regards to your medications.

Should I delay or cease my MS treatment?
You should only stop your MS medications or delay your treatment if you are suspected to have COVID-19 and have discussed it with your treating team. Please contact the MSNI service if anyone in your family or any close contacts have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Who should I contact if I have symptoms?
If you are unwell with fever, cough or breathlessness AND have come into contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, please do not attend your outpatient appointment. Please contact us to discuss your symptoms and treatment plan. After hours, contact The Alfred on 03 9076 2000, who will provide advice depending on the severity of your illness.

Should I come to my outpatient clinic, infusion or MRI appointment?
We are currently reviewing the schedule for routine/non urgent appointments to minimise visits to our sites. 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. Please 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.