COVID-19 Risk Monitoring Dashboard – Healthcare settings

This dashboard provides an assessment of transmission risk in healthcare settings – it is not an assessment of risk in the community.

Date of release: **24 November 2021**

Overall status

Amber

For the week ending 22 November, there were 1398 cases in NSW. Average growth factor was 0.98. For public health contact tracing, 98% of high-risk cases were fully interviewed within 1 day of notification. At an LHD level, cases were distributed across all districts in the past week with the highest number in South Western Sydney (272), Hunter New England (264), and Western Sydney (242). Average growth factor was relatively high in Western NSW (1.25, but with only 53 cases over the week) and in Nepean Blue Mountains (1.07, with 53 cases over the week).

Assessment category key
- 🟢 Green
- 🟠 Amber
- 🔴 Red

Local transmission

	Week ending 22 Nov 2021	Last week's report
Number of cases	**1,398**	1,590
Average growth factor, cases	**0.98**	1.00
Active cases* *as at 23 Nov*	**2,647**	2,862
Average % of tests that were positive *week ending 20 Nov*	**0.30%**	0.32%
Number of LHDs with new cases	**15**	15
Number of catchments with COVID-19 fragments detected in sewage	Number of catchments sampled *week ending 21 Nov*	**108	214**	120	208

Public health

	Week ending 21 Nov 2021	Last week's report
% of cases notified to NSW Health by the laboratory within one day of sample collection	**88%**	84%
% of cases contacted by text message within one day of notification	**98%**	98%
% of text message response high risk cases fully interviewed within one day of notification	**93%**	90%
% of cases fully interviewed within one day of notification	**98%**	95%

	As at 22 Nov 2021	Last week's report
Australia vaccine doses	**38.6 million**	37.8 million
NSW vaccine doses	**12.9 million**	12.8 million

New cases in neighbour jurisdictions	Week ending 22 Nov 2021	% change from previous week
VIC	**7,493**	↑6%
ACT	**107**	↑32%

Healthcare setting

	As at 23 Nov 2021	Last week's report
Number of cases on wards / hospitals	**160 cases** **36 hospitals**	174 / 39
Number of cases in ICU / hospitals	**34 cases** **17 hospitals**	33 / 15
Number of cases cared for outside of hospital setting	**2,058**	2,397
Cases in residential care facilities** *week ending 15 Nov*	**6 cases** **1 facility**	0 / 0

Healthcare worker infections   1
week ending 22 Nov | #facilities

	NSW Health	Aged care (i.e. nursing home)	Other healthcare settings (i.e. private hospital, GP)
Potentially healthcare acquired	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not acquired in healthcare setting	0	1	0
Under investigation	0	0	0

Number of healthcare workers in isolation *23 Nov*	**180**	288 Last week's report

Indicators are updated and reviewed weekly by the Ministry of Health, the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, NSW Health Workforce, the Agency for Clinical Innovation and the Clinical Excellence Commission. The indicators cover virus spread and containment, capacity of laboratory services to respond, capacity within the health system, impact of COVID-19 on workforce, effectiveness of the public health system response, and an indication of the community response to public health messaging. For information please see the CEC COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Response and Escalation Framework.

Explanatory notes

Local transmission

- The number of cases is sourced from the Notifiable Conditions Information Management System (NCIMS). This week includes data for the 7 days ending 8pm on the date indicated. Active cases are defined as people who have tested positive for COVID-19, are in isolation and are being clinically monitored by NSW Health. *Since 9 Sep, cases are considered active for 14 days after symptom onset date (previously 28 days) or until cases discharged from hospital if case was admitted. Further definitional changes occurred on 19th Oct; hospitalised cases with no end of isolation date are now counted as active for 28 days (previously 14 days) from symptom onset date.

  The growth factor is defined as the number of cases for the 7 days ending 8pm on the date indicated divided by the number of cases for the 7 days ending 8pm the day before. The average growth factor is the average of the growth factor for each of the past 7 days. Small discrepancies in test numbers may be seen when comparing against past reports. Since 22 Oct, the average percent of tests that are positive is defined as the total number of tests with a positive result for the 7 days on the test conducted date indicated divided by the total number of tests for the 7 days on the same test conducted date, expressed as a percentage. Historic testing numbers are revised as results become available. The three most recent days of data will always report much lower testing numbers than any other day reported as the results are not yet available. Therefore, the three most recent days of testing data are excluded from calculations.

- The number of local health districts (LHDs) with cases is the number of LHDs with at least one case among its residents for the 7 days ending 8pm on the date indicated. Any cases from correctional services, Hotel Quarantine, or Network with Victoria are counted within case numbers but are not counted as an individual LHD.

Public health

- The percent of COVID-19 cases: notified to NSW Health by the laboratory within 1 day of sample collection; contacted by text message within one day of notification to NSW Health; fully interviewed by public health staff within one day of notification to NSW Health (amongst the cases who responded to text message and identified as high risk cases); fully interviewed by public health staff within one day of notification to NSW Health, are also available in the NSW Health COVID-19 weekly surveillance report. The percent of cases contacted by text message within one day indicates cases who were messaged to advise of their positive result, provide isolation requirements and to identify high risk exposure settings. Cases who do not have a valid phone number are referred to NSW Police to identify details. Data reflect the full 24-hour period following notification of a positive test, when reporting on the percentage of cases with complete interviews. Weekly comparisons are based on results at same time, previous week.

- Vaccination data sourced from www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/australias-covid-19-vaccine-rollout

- New cases in neighbouring jurisdictions is sourced from Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center available at: coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html

- The number of catchments with COVID-19 fragments detected in sewage is sourced from the NSW Sewage Surveillance Program. Each week, sewage samples are tested for fragments of the COVID-19 virus at sewage treatment plants across NSW. Additional sewage sampling sites continue to come online. Interpretation of changes over time should be done with care.

Healthcare setting

- The number of cases on wards, in intensive care units (ICU), hospital in the home (definition), and out of hospital care, are sourced from the NSW Health patient flow portal at 7pm on the date indicated. The current ICU numbers include adult intensive care cases, PICU and NICU.

- Number of cases cared for outside of hospital setting includes number of cases in Hospital In the Home (HITH), community clinics and Out of Hospital Care (OOHC). Out of hospital care includes medi-hotels (i.e. special health accommodation) or collaborative care-private hospital (i.e. where the care of the patient is outsourced to a private hospital).

- Residential care facilities include aged care, disability, alcohol and other drugs, and mental health facilities. **Identification of cases in residential care is a manual process. Data are updated on Thursdays.

- Healthcare workers (HCWs) includes individuals who work within a hospital or other healthcare settings, including staff in direct or indirect contact with patients or infectious materials. HCWs affected is the number of HCWs with COVID-19 in the week ending on the date indicated. The data reflect a mix of transmission pathways.

- COVID-19 leave is for use by staff who are in isolation or caring for a family member with COVID-19.