

COVID – 19

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I travel overseas

Current travel advice is available on Australian Smart Traveller website. <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>
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, such as touching face, hand washing, sneezing into elbow, and close contact with other people.

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?

For all patients on biologic medications it is recommended to have the flu vaccination when it becomes available in April. The Pneumococcal vaccination is also recommended. 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 immune-suppression treatment?

You should only stop your biologic medications or delay your treatment if you are unwell. Please contact your rheumatologist if anyone in your family or any close contacts have been diagnosed with the corona virus.

When should I delay or cease my immunosuppression treatment?

If you have any symptoms of infection, not just COVID-19; you should delay your treatment until you have fully recovered from the infection. You should contact your rheumatologist, if you require further advice about when to restart your medications.

Should I come to my clinic, infusion appointment or radiology appointment?

If you are unwell or have come into contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 please do not attend your clinic appointment, infusion or any radiology appointments. Please email us on rheumatology@bigpond.com or call us on 9776 5000 to reschedule your appointment.

Who should I contact if I have symptoms?

Telephone the COVID-19 Hotline on 1800-020-080 for location of the nearest COVID-19 test centres and other advice. Please attend your local public hospital if you have any symptoms or you are concerned. **COVID-19 virus infection presents just like other colds or the flu, so it is important to get tested.** Please ensure you contact your GP prior to attending the rooms.

For more up to date information

Please refer to Government agency websites for more up to date information

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>