

Fwd: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Passengers under detention having Covi swabs at hospitals

From: "Andrea Spiteri (DHHS)" <REDACTED>
To: "Jason Helps (DHHS)" <REDACTED>
Date: Mon, 06 Apr 2020 17:06:32 +1000

FYI...
 Andrea Spiteri
 Director Emergency Management
 Department of Health and Human Services
 REDACTED

From: Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS) <REDACTED>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 17:04
To: REDACTED; Brett Sutton (DHHS); REDA (DHHS)
Cc: Andrea Spiteri (DHHS)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Passengers under detention having Covi swabs at hospitals

Hello all,

Thanks for clarifying Brett.

REDACTED, for future reference this is an operational issue which does not need to be resolved at CHO or class 2 controller level. As I am sure you will appreciate both REDACTED and Andrea are exceedingly busy and we are trying to protect their time as much as we can.

In future please escalate these issues via the relevant daily lead for the health management of the detainees and, if required, into our operations area publichealth.operations@dhhs.vic.gov.au

If you could please provide a contact number I will ask one of our operations leads to call you to discuss the process regarding results with you.

The additional benefit of doing this within the existing structures is that it gives those of us managing the day to day operations of this the opportunity to identify where there are gaps in the required information provision or sharing.

Kind Regards

Annaliese

Dr Annaliese van Diemen MBBS BMedSc MPH FRACGP FAFPHM
Public Health Commander- COVID-19 Department Incident Management Team
Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease)
 Regulation, Health Protection & Emergency Management
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The Department of Health and Human Services respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays its respect to the ongoing living cultures of Aboriginal peoples.

From: REDACTED
Sent: Monday, 6 April 2020 4:41 PM
To: Brett Sutton (DHHS) <REDACTED>; REDACTED (DHHS)
 REDACTED
Cc: Andrea Spiteri (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS)
 REDACTED
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Passengers under detention having Covi swabs at hospitals

Thanks Brett,

Would it be reasonable for REDACTED to communicate to the nurses that:

A nurse or other HCW in appropriate PPE would not be a close contact; only a 'casual contact', required to self-monitor but not quarantine.

There is a process for all positive cases.

Thanks REDACTED

From: Brett Sutton (DHHS) [mailto:REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 April 2020 4:37 PM
To: REDACTED <REDACTED>; REDACTED (DHHS)
 REDACTED
Cc: Andrea Spiteri (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS)
 REDACTED
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Passengers under detention having Covi swabs at hospitals

There is a process for all positive cases.

A nurse or other HCW in appropriate PPE would not be a close contact; only a 'casual contact', required to self-monitor but not (as I understand) quarantine.

Brett

Adj Clin Prof Brett Sutton MBBS MPHTM FAFPHM FRSPH FACTM MFTM
Victorian Chief Health Officer
Victorian Chief Human Biosecurity Officer
 Regulation, Health Protection & Emergency Management
 Department of Health & Human Services | 14 / 50 Lonsdale St
 ph:REDACTED e:REDACTED
health.vic.gov.au/public-health/chief-health-officer
twitter.com/VictorianCHO

Please note that I work from home on Thursdays and am contactable on the numbers above.

From: REDACTED <REDACTED>
Sent: Monday, 6 April 2020 4:35 PM
To: Brett Sutton (DHHS) <REDACTED>; REDACTED (DHHS)
 REDACTED
Cc: Andrea Spiteri (DHHS) <REDACTED>; Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS)
 REDACTED
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Passengers under detention having Covi swabs at hospitals

The nurse rang to say she couldn't find out. If there is a process by which the nurses are informed of a positive result that's great.

Is a nurse in PPE considered a close contact?

From: Brett Sutton (DHHS) [mailto:REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 6 April 2020 4:32 PM

To: REDACTED; REDACTED (DHHS)

REDACTED

Cc: Andrea Spiteri (DHHS) REDACTED; Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS)

REDACTED

Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Passengers under detention having Covi swabs at hospitals

Hi RED

All the close contacts (including these nurses) would be made aware of any positive swabs, for any case, anywhere. So I don't understand what the issue is here. They're effectively asking for *all* results, which is not something we would do, or is helpful.

Does that make sense?

Brett

Adj Clin Prof Brett Sutton MBBS MPHTM FAFPHM FRSPH FACTM MFTM

Victorian Chief Health Officer

Victorian Chief Human Biosecurity Officer

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Please note that I work from home on Thursdays and am contactable on the numbers above.

From: REDACTED <REDACTED>

Sent: Monday, 6 April 2020 4:07 PM

To: Brett Sutton (DHHS) REDACTED; REDACTED (DHHS)

REDACTED

Cc: Andrea Spiteri (DHHS) REDACTED

Subject: Passengers under detention having Covi swabs at hospitals

Hi Brett,

There are a small number of passengers in detention who are being transported to hospital for various reasons.

Yesterday, one had a Covid swab at The Alfred (as well as some tests of thyroid function).

The Alfred, citing patient confidentiality, are unwilling to provide the nurses at the relevant hotel the results of the test.

If RED, or whoever is RED on a particular day, sent an email to ??? with a list of passengers transported to (or from) detention to a hospital, would it be possible to find the results of their swab.

I think that it is reasonable that the nurses looking after these patients are aware of positive results.

We could use the locum doctors as the communication pathway but it sounds like they are a bit variable.

Also, of interest, does the 14 days start again if they come back positive?

Thanks, REDAC

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