

General practice respiratory clinics: news article

COVID, cough, cold or flu? See your GP or a GP respiratory clinic

With COVID-19, influenza and other bugs continuing to circulate, health professionals are urging people to seek the right care in the right place at the right time.

During the colder months we must all help protect our hospitals so that they can look after people who are critically unwell. If you turn up to a hospital unannounced, you will likely be waiting many hours to see a doctor – and placing more pressure on a system that is close to breaking point.

If you have mild COVID-19, flu, cough or cold symptoms, a GP is the best health professional to quickly provide you with the care you need. If your usual GP can't see you face to face, [appointments are available at GP respiratory clinics](#) (GPRCs).

GPRCs operate at many locations across Victoria. They are free for people of all ages – with or without a Medicare card. Most clinics are available after hours and on weekends.

GPRC clinicians provide comprehensive, face-to-face assessments and immediate support for anyone with respiratory symptoms to manage their illness. This includes anyone with:

- COVID-19
- influenza
- cold symptoms such as a cough, runny nose, sore throat or fever
- asthma
- hay fever
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- emphysema
- pneumonia
- mild shortness of breath*.

Don't wait until it's too late. If you're too sick to care for yourself at home, book an appointment with your GP or a GPRC.

Visit gprespiratoryclinics.org.au for more information including booking links, opening hours and a map of all GPRCs in Victoria.

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**If you have severe trouble breathing, blueness around the mouth, chest pains, or pain in your arms or jaw, call triple zero (000) for urgent help.*