



COVID-19 FACT SHEET #2

17 March 2020

Fax to	NT Member Pharmacies
Fax from	Judith Oliver BPharm(Hons) NT Branch Director

Please note that the NT Branch provides regular updates on COVID-19 and many other issues through our eBulletin which is emailed to member pharmacies. If you are not receiving it or would like to receive it through other means please contact us urgently on 08 8944 6900 or office@ntguild.org.au

SecureNT for NT-specific info: The NT Government has centralised its communication regarding COVID-19 to the SecureNT website. Please visit www.securent.gov.au and follow them on facebook and Instagram for regular updates. Encourage your customers to do the same.

Presentation of suspected cases in the pharmacy: provide the customer and staff member with a mask (see contact details for NTPHN below) and instruct them to call their GP in the first instance to arrange testing. See “*Guild Guide to COVID-19*” for more information.

Pandemic Clinics: Patients should **not** just turn up to the clinic, but should call their GP in the first instance who will determine if they need to attend the clinic. Please contact your local GP to establish referral pathways for your pharmacy. A clinic is open at Royal Darwin Hospital, with Palmerston and regional sites to follow. These are only testing points for patients referred by GP with suspected COVID-19 infection.

Useful phone numbers:

HealthDirect: 1800 022 222 (access to a nurse for assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080 (24 hours a day, seven days a week)

NT Coronavirus Hotline: 1800 008 002 or in Darwin call the **NT Public Health Unit:** 08 8922 8044

NTPHN Access to Surgical Masks: 08 8982 1008

Guild Guide to COVID-19: The “*COVID-19 Guide for Community pharmacy*” aims to assist Members in preparing for COVID-19 and is available <https://www.guild.org.au/resources/business-operations/COVID-19-Information> . Guild website also includes clinical advice on COVID-19, social media tiles & posters, and Workplace Relations fact sheets.

Access to Surgical Masks: The NTPHN are distributing surgical masks from the Commonwealth stockpile to pharmacies. The masks are for use by staff when dealing with members of the public, whom they feel may pose a risk. They are not to be used as retail stock or on-sold. To order Email covid19-support@ntphn.org.au or phone **08 8982 1008** (deliveries outside Darwin & Palmerston will require a postal address).

IR & Work Health Advice: Please contact the NT Branch on 08 8944 6900.

Medicine Shortages: There is currently no recommendation from the Chief Medical Officer, or any other public health authority of the need for patients to stockpile. The TGA publishes information on medicines shortages at <https://apps.tga.gov.au/prod/MSI/search> . Pharmacies & customers can report medicine shortages to the TGA by emailing medicine.shortages@health.gov.au or by phoning **02 6232 8850**. Please also copy in the Guild at pbs.issues@guild.org.au for our awareness.

The Pharmacy Guild (NT Branch) are included in the NT Government response to COVID-19, and are also working closely with NTPHN. This is a rapidly changing situation & we will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

For queries or concerns relating to COVID-19 please call us on 08 8944 6900 or office@ntguild.org.au