



June 2020

Update to COVID-19 screening questions for staff, visitors and clients

The Ministry of Health last night advised that the following question should be added to staff, client and visitor COVID-19 screening:

Have you travelled to Melbourne in the last 14 days?

If yes:

- For staff: assess the person for symptoms and exclude from clinical areas for a period of 14 days from the date they returned from Melbourne. They should be advised to get tested for COVID-19 should even the mildest of symptoms arise. Given the risk is presently very low, should the absence of the staff member from clinical duties in any way compromise clinical care, please assess the risk accordingly and put a local management plan in place.
- For clients/visitors: ensure that questioning focusses on the mildest of symptoms but at this stage there is no instruction to exclude if the person is completely asymptomatic.

Stay up to date on [guidance about testing](#) or contact your contract manager.

Key findings of survey exploring the impact of COVID-19 on NADA members

- 71.4% reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had significantly affected their services.
- 75% reported moving from face-to-face delivery to telehealth, with 80% of those indicating that they would consider maintaining these changes.
- 65.4% of members reported that they had reduced client numbers to support appropriate risk mitigation measures (e.g. physical distancing).
- Almost half (48.0%) of respondents reported an increase in demand for their services, with only 12.0% reporting a decrease. Sixteen per cent (16.0%) were unsure and 24.0% reported no change in demand.
- 62.5% reported that there had been no change to staff numbers as a direct result of COVID-19, with 37.5% reportedly accessing the JobKeeper scheme.

[Click here](#) to access the survey report.

NADA will use the results of the survey to inform: i) advocacy on behalf of members; ii) sector and workforce development initiatives; and iii) an independent study into the impact of COVID-19 by the Drug Policy Modelling Program, UNSW.

For more information

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