

South Australia COVID-19 Update

Tuesday the 23rd of November marks an important date in the management of COVID-19 in South Australia. There will be a relaxation of our strict border control restrictions, which will inevitably lead to community transmission of the virus within South Australia.

This will have significant impact on the way that Unley Physiotherapy is able to run our various services. Of greatest importance to us is the wellbeing of our staff and clients. How can we best continue to offer our services to all of our clients, whilst mitigating risk and protecting everyone to the best of our ability?

SA Health has released "Assessing and managing the risk: COVID exposures in primary and community health care settings." This document outlines various scenarios relating to how SA Health have assessed the risk of contact. It also outlines the quarantine requirements for casual and close contact situations. It differentiates significantly between close contacts with a vaccinated vs non-vaccinated person.

We are also very aware that many of our clients are in high risk categories for developing complications requiring hospitalisation should they be exposed to the virus due to age or immunosuppression.

In light of the risks to staff and clients, as well as our ability to continue to run as a business without multiple staff being in quarantine, we are implementing new protocols and policies so that we can best protect and continue to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that we wish to continue to offer services to all clients vaccinated or non-vaccinated. The SA Health directives and threat of infection require us to look at ways in which we can do this in the safest way possible.

From Tuesday November 23rd 2021, the following policies will be in place:

- As mandated by Emergency Management (Healthcare Setting Workers Vaccination No 3) (COVID-19) Direction 2021, anyone entering a Unley Physiotherapy clinic in a paid capacity (Unley Physiotherapy staff, support workers, taxi drivers, delivery people, cleaning staff etc., are required to have received their first vaccination and have made an appointment for their second.
- All clients over the age of 12, attending an Unley Physiotherapy session will be required to show evidence of double vaccination with an approved vaccine, this will apply to family members and carers attending with a client as well.
- Clients who do not wish to declare their vaccination status will be subject to the same restrictions as unvaccinated clients.
- We will be asking clients who are subject to quarantine or experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat, tiredness or loss of taste/smell, to please remain at home.
- We are very aware that declaring vaccination status can be a sensitive and contentious issue for some clients. We would like to continue to service our clients that are unvaccinated or who do not wish to declare their vaccination status. Please speak to us about telehealth, out-of-hours appointments and home visit options so that we can continue to help you through this period.

All vaccination information will be kept in the strictest of confidence on your clinical file, in line with the Privacy Act 1988.

We will be upgrading our use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to meet the demands of the SA Health directive. We are also updating all of our hygiene and other safety procedures in the clinic to minimise the risk to staff and clients and hopefully be able to continue to operate and service all of our clients through this period.

We expect that the rules and restrictions may change again once the next vaccination milestone has been reached (likely 90% + vaccinated of people over 12 years old). We will continue to monitor the South Australian government guidelines and will keep everyone informed of any changes in the way that we are able to safely operate as a business.

Many thanks for your understanding of what is a very difficult time to be operating a business, particularly a health-related business, we value all of our clients and wish to continue to help in any way we can.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns or wish to discuss any of our new policies in any way.

Kind regards,

Gregory Rosenbauer

Director

Unley Physiotherapy