



# Update Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

APRIL  
Edition 1

This fact sheet provides information on what you can do to keep safe from coronavirus (COVID-19). It also provides details about Council services and organisations that can support you.

## Why is mob more at risk?

Coronavirus is a new virus that can cause severe health issues.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50 who have other health conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart and lung conditions, or immune problems are more at risk of becoming very ill with coronavirus.

## What are the symptoms?

Many of the symptoms are the same as a flu virus – fever, breathing difficulties, cough, sore throat and tiredness.

If you have any of these, it is important that you get tested and seek medical help.

**Call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.**



## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willam Clan as the traditional owners of this place.

## Help with payment of Council rates, fees and charges during the pandemic

If you or your business has been affected by the pandemic, you can apply for financial relief through:

- a payment plan; or
- for serious financial hardship you can apply to defer Council payments during the pandemic with no interest/penalties/fees applied until 30 June 2021.

For more information or to apply: call our Customer Service team on 9217 2170 or visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) to view the COVID-19 Hardship policy and application form.

## Keeping our mob safe

We need to work together to help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).



**Stay at home**  
as much as possible.



Remember to **keep 1.5 metres** between yourself and others.



**Wash your hands** often with soap and running water.



**Cover your nose and mouth** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away and wash your hands.



**Avoid close contact** with anyone who has a cold, or flu-like symptoms.



If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, **seek medical care early.**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve and we are adapting according to community needs and Government advice. Please visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) for the most up-to-date information or call 9217 2170.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support

Our Access and Support worker is here to provide you with free help to contact different services that you might need. Contact Shontia Saluja on 0437 425 903 or email [shontia.saluja@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:shontia.saluja@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

# What can we do to protect our mob?

## Stop gathering with mob

Only two people can be together outside of your home. If more than two people live in your house, that's ok, but only the people who live in your house should be there.

## Greet mob from afar

Handshakes, hugs and kisses are not safe at the moment.

If you see mob around, keep 1.5 metres apart and give a proper blackfella wave instead.

## No camping on Country

## Keep healthy

Keep exercising, drink water, get plenty of sleep, and try to quit smoking.

Call Quitline on 137 848.

## Keep Sorry Business to 10 people

While sorry business is important, these rules are here to help protect mob and you could be fined.

## Yarn online

If you want to catch up and yarn with mob, use Facebook, FaceTime or just the deadly phone like the old days.

## Stay up-to-date on COVID-19

Stay informed, stay home and stay safe.

Visit  [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)  
 [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

Call  the DHHS 24-hour hotline on **1800 675 398**

Send  WhatsApp message to **0400 253 787**

Download  Coronavirus App from the **App Store** or **Google Play**

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing hardship please contact Whittlesea Community Connections on 9401 6644.

## Here are some of the ways Council is adapting to the COVID-19 situation

Services continuing	Services changing	Temporarily closed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bin and waste collections</li> <li>Mowing and tree pruning in parks, gardens and open spaces</li> <li>Immunisation sessions*</li> <li>Delivered meals</li> <li>Family Day Care</li> <li>Home support for aged care clients</li> <li>Environmental health**</li> <li>Animal management</li> <li>Road maintenance</li> <li>Construction projects</li> <li>Kindergartens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maternal and child health appointments, via phone</li> <li>Libraries – visit <a href="https://www.yprl.vic.gov.au/">ypri.vic.gov.au/</a> <b>eLibrary</b> to borrow ebooks, audiobooks, digital magazines and stream films</li> <li>Youth Services Support, via phone</li> <li>Building and planning services, available online</li> <li>Disability parking permits, via post or email</li> <li>School Crossing Supervisors – adjusted to each school's needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council offices – Civic Centre, Westfield and Epping Depot</li> <li>Community centres</li> <li>Libraries (services online)</li> <li>Playgrounds, skate parks and barbecue areas</li> <li>Pools and gyms (indoor and outdoor)</li> <li>Plenty Ranges Arts &amp; Convention Centre</li> <li>Golf courses and tennis courts</li> <li>Landfill and recycling facilities</li> </ul> <p>All events, programs and activities are cancelled until further notice.</p>

\* Some locations have been suspended for the remainder of 2020. Check the timetable and book online at [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation).

\*\*Our environmental health officers are helping businesses adapt to social distancing requirements, and continue to carry out health and safety inspections of food businesses.

This information was correct at the time of printing. For up-to-date information please visit our website.

## Contact us

 **Phone** 9217 2170  
 Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm  
 After hours service for emergencies only

**Building and planning enquiries**  
 9217 2259 or [buildplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:buildplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

**National Relay Service**  
 133 677 (ask for 9217 2170)

**Free telephone interpreter service**  
 **131 450**

 **Email** [info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

 **Website** [whittlesea.vic.gov.au](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

 **Mail** Locked Bag 1,  
 Bundoora MDC VIC 3083