



## **COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PATIENT UPDATE #9**

14 July 2020

Dear Valued Repromed Patient,

As you may be aware, over the last 2 weeks the number of COVID-19 cases across Melbourne has increased substantially. As a result last week Repromed took the decision to delay treating Melbourne based patients at our Dulwich and Darwin clinics until we had a clearer understanding of the virus' spread amongst this community. At this time the decision was also made to continue offering treatment for our patients who reside in Mildura (and the surrounding district) and Broken Hill.

As the COVID-19 virus now appears to have spread beyond Melbourne and into country Victoria and New South Wales, we have made the difficult decision to delay treatment for all of our patients who are based in Victoria and New South Wales (including Mildura and Broken Hill as Health Authorities are unable to provide assurances that there are no active cases currently within these areas). I am aware that this decision will create distress for our Victorian and New South Wales patients, however as Repromed's Medical Director my first priority is to protect the health and welfare of our patients and staff.

While the number of COVID-19 cases outside of Melbourne may still be small, and we hope are able to be contained quickly, we also know that this virus has a substantial incubation period of up to 2 weeks, and that many carriers are asymptomatic. Therefore an 'abundance of caution approach' is necessary when making decisions which have the potential to negatively impact not only our staff and the majority of our patients, but the greater South Australian and Northern Territory communities.

**Therefore as of today (14 July 2020) we have made the following decisions which are effective immediately:**

- Patients from New South Wales and/or Victoria will not be able to 'Book On' for a stimulated (ie. fresh) cycle of IVF, Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET) or Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI).
- Patients from New South Wales and/or Victoria who have already commenced a stimulated (fresh) IVF cycle and have already administered gonadotropins injections, will be able to continue with this cycle.
- Patients from New South Wales and/or Victoria already 'Booked On' for a FET or IUI cycle may complete this cycle only if the transfer/insemination procedure is completed by Tuesday 21 July.

Patients from New South Wales and/or Victoria who meet the above criteria and are able to continue with their current cycle will also be required to wear a face mask at all times while attending Repromed. Continuation of treatment will also be dependent on these patients obtaining the required interstate travel approval/s from relevant government authorities.

Furthermore, if undergoing a procedure in our Day Surgery Unit at Dulwich, these patients will also be required to have a COVID-19 test two (2) days prior to surgery and have returned a negative result before being able to proceed to surgery.

Repromed will review the above policy in one (1) month and if it appears that the COVID-19 'second wave' is under control within Victoria and New South Wales we will recommence treatment for patients from these states.



Please note that patients coming from South Australia, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and/or Tasmania into either our Dulwich or Darwin clinics may still, at the current time, access treatment provided you are well and do not need to transit through New South Wales or Victoria to reach Adelaide or Darwin.

I would like to thank our New South Wales and Victorian patients for their anticipated understanding with this difficult decision to temporary delay treatment for one month. We look forward to welcoming you back at Repromed in hopefully the near future.

Kind regards,  
Professor Kelton Tremellen  
Medical Director