

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Patient Update #13

20 July 2021

Dear Valued Repromed Patient,

In light of the State Government's announcement today of a 7-day state-wide lockdown which comes into effect as of 6pm tonight (Tuesday 20 July), as a result of the recently reported Covid-19 cases within South Australia, I would like to take this opportunity to outline what this means for you and your treatment. While this is an unsettling time, I wish to reassure all our patients that Repromed has already successfully navigated a similar shutdown in 2020 and we are confident we can still offer a high-quality clinical service with the minimum of disruption.

Partners and Support People:

We understand that fertility treatment is often challenging and certainly a time where people take great comfort having their loved ones with them when they visit our clinic.

That is why we are pleased to advise partners and support people are still able to attend our clinics for pregnancy scans, Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI) procedures and Embryo Transfers.

We are however forced to restrict partners and support persons from attending routine blood tests and routine ultrasounds to ensure we comply with social distancing requirements.

Routine (diagnostic) semen analysis have been cancelled for this week, but semen analysis for use in IVF/IUI or for oncology storage will still be available.

Phone Consultations:

All clinical and counselling (including genetic counselling) consultations will be shifted to phone appointments until further notice.

Our Patient Services Team are currently in the process of contacting all patients with upcoming appointments to notify them of this change. Please bear with us as depending on your appointment date, it may be a few days before we contact you.

Also please note that our team will contact you at your designated appointment time, so we ask that you ensure your phone is near you and turned on.

IVF, FET, OI and IUI Cycles:

If you are currently undergoing an IVF, Ovulation Induction (OI) or Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI) cycle or have an up and coming Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET), you can continue with your treatment.

If there is any change required to your treatment plan rest assured, we will be in contact with you. Our past experience with a shutdown has been that Government policy can very change quickly in response to changing risks. As such, treatment plans may also need to be altered at short notice.

Nurse Interviews, Drug Instructions and Medications:

All nurse interviews and drug instructions will be shifted to phone appointments until further notice. Our nursing team will contact you at your designated appointment time for your consult; again we ask that you ensure your phone is near you and turned on.

If you require medications for your cycle, please note you are still able to collect them from our pharmacy at Dulwich.

Gynae Theatre Procedures:

Our day surgery unit is currently able to remain open and patients requiring gynae procedures can proceed with their surgery at this stage.

Ultrasound Services:

If you are having a Day 2-6 pregnancy scan, you are able to proceed with your ultrasound, as too are all viability pregnancy scans.

Please note HyCoSy procedures scheduled for this week are being postponed.

Booking On – Commencing Treatment:

If you are intending to commence treatment you are still able to do so. We do however ask that if you have any cold or flu like symptoms please let us know as we may need to delay your treatment by one month. While we understand this delay may cause stress, it is an unavoidable restriction necessary to minimise the risk of other patients and staff from contracting Coronavirus.

If you have already commenced your stimulated IVF cycle and become unwell we ask that you follow the government's recommendation to self-isolate, have a COVID-19 test and contact us. If these symptoms are only mild "cold" like symptoms we may still proceed with treatment, however, this decision will be made on a case by case basis and we ask that you do not attend Repromed before discussing your symptoms with our staff. If you have recently had a Covid-19 test, we ask that you do not attend Repromed until after you have received a negative result. Repromed will not be able to treat patients who have had a Covid-19 test and are still awaiting their test result.

Nest Test:

Blood tests and viability scans for our Nest test are still able to be done. Partners / support persons can accompany you during your visit.

Mawson Lakes Clinic:

Our clinic at Mawson Lakes will remain open.

Children in Clinic:

To ensure we are conforming to the Government guidelines and to minimise the number of people within our clinics at any given time, we request where possible, children are not brought into our clinics.

Face Masks:

All patients and visitors are required to follow the government's guideline to wear a face mask at all times whilst in our clinics (unless they have an exemption).

We understand this may be an emotional and unsettling time for many. Please know that we are here to support you and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Rest assured that we are regularly reviewing new information as it comes to hand and discussing how we need to adapt to ensure our patients', our staff's and the South Australian community's safety at all times.

Stay safe and continue to look after yourself, your loved ones and each other.

Professor Kelton Tremellen

Medical Director