



JUNE, 2020

## Message from the CEO

Pittwater Life, Sydney

## Northern Beaches Hospital



## Message from the CEO



Hello everyone,

As life starts to return to a new normal on the Northern Beaches, I'd like to say a special thank you to the

community and the staff of Northern Beaches Hospital for their extraordinary efforts during these challenging times.

Many individuals, groups and companies have shown support to the hospital via letters and cards or by dropping off food and gifts for the staff. We are appreciative of the support being received by you all across the Northern Beaches.

### Hospital Services

From mid-May we gradually started to increase elective surgery and we thank people for their patience in dealing with the pause in elective surgery due to COVID-19.

Our COVID-19 clinic has extended its hours to cater for additional community testing required to allow for relaxed social distancing. Currently we are testing more than 120 people per day in the clinic and urge anyone

with symptoms to visit the clinic to get tested. The clinic is open from 8am-7pm. Please follow the signs at the hospital and drive directly to the clinic at the rear of the hospital. Free parking is available for those being tested.

### Visiting The Hospital

We have made a few changes to protect our patients and our staff and I ask that those attending the hospital to please work with us.

All visitors and staff are being temperature checked and screened prior to entry to the hospital.

We ask that only **one nominated visitor** for the duration of the patient's admission and that visitors not have travelled in the past 14 days, not be experiencing cold/flu-like symptoms and not have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-positive person in the past 14 days.

For the time being the hospital will be maintaining this visiting policy. While I understand this can be difficult for families, it is necessary to minimise the risks. We will revisit the policy in coming weeks.

### Special Events

While COVID-19 has prevented us from holding group celebrations, last month we marked a number of special occasions on the health calendar including National Volunteers Week. It is an absolute privilege to have more than 95 volunteers working in various areas of the hospital. The work volunteers do is essential and a valuable asset to the delivery of our health services.

Earlier in May we also celebrated International Midwives' Day and International Nurses' Day. More than 1200 nurses and midwives work at Northern Beaches Hospital and they underpin the world-class care provided to our patients.

### Social Distancing

As government restrictions are eased and many of us return to school and work, I wanted to also take the opportunity to remind us all to maintain our social distancing and hand hygiene.

Best wishes and stay safe

**Andrew Newton**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northern Beaches Hospital