Keeping safe in the workplace during COVID-19

Stay Vigilant. Stay Safe.

The Health Care Worker Expert Panel reviews COVID-19 exposures in the workplace and has identified key lessons on COVID-19 exposures and risk. This week's communication is reminding all health care workers to remain vigilant at work and continue to wear the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required by NSW Health.

Importance of wearing PPE correctly
Of the health care worker exposures reported to NSW Ministry of Health over the last two months, almost two-thirds (64%) were related to contact with either patients or other staff who were not known to be COVID-19 positive at the time of contact. This highlights the importance of wearing PPE in all relevant settings.

- Being vigilant is even more important during heightened activity or changing environments. Be aware of your situation - be especially mindful when working with your routine (non-COVID-19) patients and as the number of visitors allowed changes.

- Continue your good practices of complying with hand hygiene and PPE every time it is required.

- Speak up if you see a colleague who is missing a part of their PPE or if you have any concerns regarding donning or doffing of PPE.

- Refresh your knowledge on PPE use, see CEC guidance

- Be mindful in tearooms and other shared spaces such as offices, storerooms and handover areas – remember to wear your mask.

- When you have finished eating/drinking in the tearoom, wear your mask for the remainder of your break.

- It's Mental Health month - Tune in and ask if your colleagues are OK. If you're not doing so well or finding challenges coping, please seek support and help.

Speak up for safety: support your team to do the right thing