



COVID-19 Management Plan

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Effective 20th June 2022

COVID 19 has presented many challenges for us all over the last 2.5 years and it is with a lot of gratitude that we are able to present to you an updated COVID 19 Management plan which sees the lifting of some restrictions and the return to somewhat “normal” processes.

Is the vaccination safe for women undergoing fertility treatment or who are pregnant?

The vaccine has been deemed extremely safe for women who are pregnant or undergoing fertility treatment, in fact, it is encouraged and endorsed by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG). Please read the statement by the college <https://ranzcof.edu.au/statements-guidelines/covid-19-statement>. Pregnant women who are unvaccinated and contract COVID-19 are likely to suffer severe disease.

We continue to encourage vaccination for all patients/partners/relatives, etc.

Are you required to be fully vaccinated to have treatment at Concept?

No. Concept has made the decision to lift the mandatory vaccination directive. All patients and visitors vaccinated or non-vaccinated, will be able to undertake treatment or visit Concept Fertility Centre and Day Hospital (“Concept”) without restriction.

As per the question above, COVID 19 vaccination in women planning to become pregnant or who are in fact already pregnant are encouraged strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID 19. This recommendation extends to the flu vaccine as well.

Do I need to show proof of my vaccination status to visit Concept?

No, this is longer required.

What will be the entry requirements at the clinic?

Entry into the clinic will return to being via the front and back doors for the extent of our existing open hours. Masks are **REQUIRED** as we are a healthcare facility. If you forget your mask, please go to reception. As a clinic we still encourage social distancing where possible and the use of hand sanitisers. If you are COVID + or unwell, please do not attend the clinic.

I have cold symptoms and don't feel well. What do I do?

Please **DO NOT** attend the clinic. Call us so we can instruct you what to do. By alerting us early we are better positioned to manage your cycle and hopefully avoid cancellations.

I'm COVID-19 positive whilst in an active cycle. Will my cycle be cancelled?

Unfortunately, a positive result may mean that your cycle has to be cancelled. Under these circumstances you will not be financially disadvantaged. *

Can my children attend the clinic?

Children are welcome at the clinic, but we do request that they are fully supervised at all times and remain seated and quiet. Children running and moving around a busy clinic put them, staff and other patients at risk of being injured or hurt.

Can my partner or support person accompany me into the building?

Yes, but only to the clinic area of Concept. Partners, support people etc are not allowed to enter the theatre complex except for an embryo transfer. In these circumstances a partner or support person will wait outside the theatre complex until they are accompanied into the procedure room by the Concept nursing staff. Once the transfer is completed you will be asked to wait back out of the theatre complex. We regret that children are not allowed in the theatre complex at any time.

I have an appointment for a semen sample. Am I still able to come to the clinic to do this?

Yes, all patients are welcome to complete their sample at Concept. Appointments are necessary so please ensure you contact us to book an appointment. If you wish to produce your sample at home, this is still an option. Please speak to reception.

I am beginning my fertility treatment and I have an appointment with the Nurse Coordinators. Do I attend in person or will this be conducted online?

This is optional. Please indicate your preference at the time of booking.

My admission to the Day Hospital for my egg collection, gynaecological procedure, epididymal aspiration (sperm retrieval) or cosmetic procedure is pending - what will I be required to do?

All patients booked for anaesthetic procedures in our Day Hospital are **NOT** required to undertake a PCR test prior to admission. On the day of their procedure, all patients who are undergoing an anaesthetic will be required to undertake a RAT as part of your admission process. If your result is positive, we regret that we will be unable to complete your theatre procedure and you will be asked to leave the facility. We will assist you to make contact with partners, friends, and support people as needed. Our Nurse Coordination team will make contact with you to provide you with further directions and support. In this instance, we regret, that your cycle will be cancelled and you will not be able to return to the clinic to commence another cycle until after 14 days has passed. The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) recommends that people who have suffered COVID 19 should defer any surgical procedures for a period of 28 days. The Nurse Coordination team are available to advise on this.

If your cycle is cancelled due to a COVID infection you will not be financially disadvantaged under these circumstances. * This does not apply if your partner or children are COVID +.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of letting us know if you are feeling unwell. Please don't come to the clinic. Call us.

I am required to produce a fresh sperm sample on the day of my partner's egg collection. Are we allowed to enter the clinic together?

Yes, although you won't be required to produce your sample until the time of your partner's procedure. For example, the admission time for your partner's egg collection is timed to be 1.5 hours before the procedure time. A 0630am admission will mean a procedure time of 0800am. If you accompany your partner at their admission time you will be required to wait until the procedure time to produce your sample. You are welcome to wait in our waiting room or leave and return to Concept at the procedure time. Please report to reception when you return to Concept and our team will check you in and direct you. We regret that you will not be able to accompany your partner into the theatre complex. Alternatively, if you live within one hour drive from Concept, you can return home after dropping your partner off at the admission time, produce your sample at home and bring it to the clinic when you return to collect your partner.

Am I required to wear a mask?

Yes, masks are still mandatory.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for choosing Concept to assist you on your fertility journey? and for placing your trust in us. Thank you for helping us to keep each other safe during the last 2.5 years, we couldn't have done it without you. Rest assured we will continue to walk alongside you on this journey. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions, feedback or support. We are here.

Keep safe, be safe.

The Concept Team

* If your IVF/ICSI or FET cycle is cancelled due to a positive COVID-19 result prior to theatre admission, you will not be charged a Concept cycle fee and these charges will be Bulk Billed to Medicare. ** Any payments that you have made will be credited to your account and this amount will be available for future treatment.

In the event you test positive to COVID-19 following your egg collection and prior to your embryo transfer, you will not be able to proceed to your transfer and your embryos will be frozen. In this instance Concept cycle fees will still apply and you will be provided one subsequent Bulk Billed FET cycle. **

** Please note that Concept cycle fees DOES NOT INCLUDE semen analysis, sperm freeze costs, consultations with Fertility Specialists, Anaesthetist fees (where applicable), theatre and accommodation charges/excesses (where applicable), medication costs, pathology, ultrasounds or any costs accrued outside of the 30 day Global Fee as defined by Medicare.