

RRV on the increase

Social distancing is doing a fantastic job of reducing circulating respiratory viruses.

While you're social distancing, make sure that mozzies are also excluded!

As our attention is turned to the global pandemic coronavirus outbreak, don't forget to focus on other threats that lurk in our environment. In particular, we have observed a noticeable increase in new diagnoses of Ross River Virus infections. Cases are being detected across Queensland and Northern New South Wales. We last saw a large outbreak of RRV in 2017, and the numbers are suggesting this may be another big year! To date more than 1609 cases have been notified nationally in the past two months, the majority being from Queensland (Figure 1).

RRV occurs exclusively in the Australasian region and generally causes a clinical illness, which is characterised by fever, rash and polyarthritis. See Patient Information Notes: <http://protocols.sonichealthcare.com/shared/IP503.pdf>

The virus is transmitted by numerous species of mosquito that breed in diverse environments.

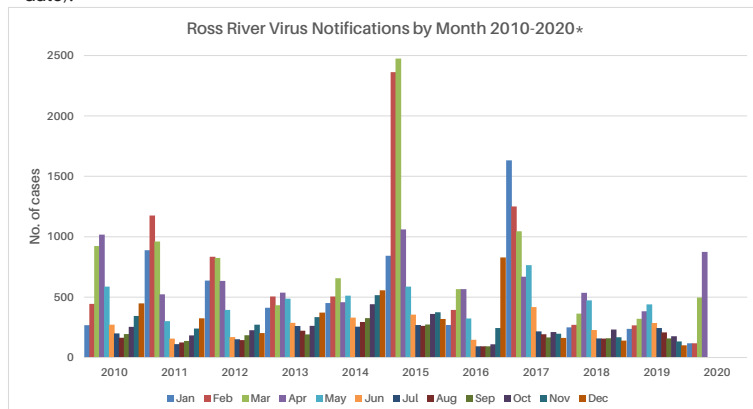
Ross River Virus is diagnosed serologically with detection of specific RRV IgG and IgM. Since 2016, a single IgM is no longer considered sufficient evidence for a confirmed case, as false positive can be an issue. The most convincing evidence for infection is seroconversion from a negative to positive RRV-specific IgG in acute and convalescent sera. Sometimes an acute sample is not available and the presence of IgG and IgM, together with a clinically compatible



illness, is the best means of diagnosis. Weekly reports on new diagnoses of arboviruses (mosquito-borne viruses) in our laboratory are on our website. See <https://www.snp.com.au/clinicians/results-and-reporting/infectious-disease-reports/>

So how can we protect ourselves? As no treatment is available, mosquito distancing is the best measure. See: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/all/prevention/mosquito-borne/bites>

Figure 1: Nationally Notifiable RRV infections by month and year 2010-2020 (year to date).



National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance: <http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/source/cda-index.cfm>

New Sonic Education website – expanding the knowledge of our referrers



Our parent group, Sonic Healthcare has launched the Sonic Education website for referring clinicians.

As Australia's largest diagnostic provider, Sonic is able to draw on the expertise of more than 330 specialist pathologists, many of them leaders in their fields; 200 specialist radiologists and nuclear physicians; and hundreds of senior medical scientists, many with sub-specialist expertise. Many are actively engaged in teaching at universities, colleges, international conferences and seminars.

This new website enables us to share this unique pool of knowledge and make it available to our medical practitioners as part of our contribution to maintaining the strength of medical care in Australia.

The website has been developed to serve as an easy-to-navigate

online learning platform, where clinicians can access a wealth of independent, expert, accredited medical resources, including:

- clinical audits, including skin cancer and cervical screening
- e-learning workshops and educational videos offering an easy and convenient alternative to face-to-face courses
- easy access to online versions of the Sonic Pathology Handbook and Sonic Skin Pathology in Practice
- easy access to Sonic-DX results
- access to all Sonic and partner conferences and events.

We recognise that for many healthcare professionals time is a scarce commodity, which is why we are dedicated to providing learning that can be undertaken in a flexible, self-paced manner, at times that best suit busy professionals.

For more information go to soniceducation.com.au

COVID-19 surge capacity means reduced turnaround time

Faecal PCR and full respiratory virus panel testing still available

Although COVID-19 testing introduced a significant impact on our testing resources, we were well placed to meet the demand. Since commencing testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19 on 19 February 2020, we have seen our testing numbers increase to more than 2000 patients each day. During this time SNP performed testing even while continuing to offer all routine testing without interruption. Through innovation and careful management, we now have considerable surge capacity to meet the requirements for the increased testing resulting from the recent request by states and territories that all persons with symptoms be tested. Throughout this time we deliver next-day COVID-19 reporting for the majority of patients. Our turnaround time is second to none.

Most recently there have been a number of enquiries about our capacity to test Faecal PCR and the full respiratory virus panel for all patients. We want to reassure our referrers and their patients that these routine tests are available for all patients.

Faecal PCR is performed as the first line testing for all faecal samples where a bacterial or parasitic infection is suspected. If there is a high suspicion for a viral infection, please include 'viral PCR' when requesting the faecal test.

From 29 March 2020 a full respiratory virus panel (PCR) and COVID-19 (PCR) are performed for all patients who are referred for either or both of these investigations. The SNP full respiratory virus panel includes: Influenza A and B, respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza (1, 2, 3, 4), human metapneumovirus, adenovirus and rhinovirus.



Pathologist Profile

Dr Manisha Jadon MBBS MD(Pathology) FRCPA
Cert Dermatoscopy

We are pleased to welcome Dr Manisha Jadon to our dermatopathology team in Brisbane.

Before specialising in dermatopathology, Dr Jadon worked as a consultant histopathologist in private practice in Queensland, gaining experience across many areas of surgical pathology. Having developed an interest in dermatopathology during her training, she began working exclusively in that area. She has special interests in alopecia, inflammatory dermatoses and neoplastic dermatopathology. In 2019, she completed a certificate qualification in dermatoscopy.

Dr Jadon graduated in Medicine from the University of Rajasthan, India in 2002 and went on to post-graduate specialist training in pathology. She was awarded MD in Pathology in 2009. After migrating to Australia, she underwent advanced training in anatomical pathology and was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia in 2017. She has a keen interest in education and training and has presented to general practitioners on topics including alopecia and melanoma. She is an associate lecturer at The University of Queensland School of Medicine.

Dr Jadon is available for consultation.

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SNP report delivery update

Increasingly we are delivering results reports in PDF format. This ensures the formatting of complex results is maintained and provides the opportunity for enhancement of some reports.

The next version of SNP's report delivery application will soon be released to your practice management system. By sending both the PDF and text report formats, you can view the report in your preferred format. The inclusion of the text report with the PDF report will allow you to include the results in templates. Download the tipsheet for your PMS from our website.

Third party download clients, such as Medical Objects or Healthlinks, do not support the transmission of PDF reports. The report may include a full URL or a 'click here' hyperlink which will provide access to the PDF. The report will also include a pin number that you will

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) update

Weekly reports of circulating SARS-CoV-2 are now on the Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology website.

SNP is one of the first private laboratories in Australia to develop an assay for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and we have been able to continually provide access to collections at more than 80 of our collection centres in Queensland and Northern NSW.

All SARS-CoV-2 requests, apart from clearance swabs, undergo testing for other respiratory viruses, and since 29 March we have been testing for SARS-CoV-2 on all respiratory virus requests.

Weekly reports on SARS-CoV-2 have been added to our regular respiratory virus reports; they cover testing by SNP from 19 February 2020 and include:

- number of positive and negative SARS-CoV-2 tests by week for 2020 including % positivity
- detection of other respiratory viruses by week for 2020 on all SARS-CoV-2 requests
- percent positivity Flu A, Flu B, RSV, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) viruses by week for 2020
- percent positivity HMPV, Rhino, Parainfluenza (combined 1, 2, 3, 4), Adeno viruses by week for 2020
- age group and sex distribution of all SARS-CoV-2 and % positivity by age group
- positive coronavirus by age group and sex for 2020
- co-pathogen detection
- positive SARS-CoV-2 patients by state for 2020
- origin of all patient specimens by state for 2020
- positive SARS-CoV-2 by patient type, community, residential aged-care facility, hospital.
- all SARS-CoV-2 by patient type, community, residential aged-care facility, hospital.

Updates are made mid-week and are available at <https://www.snp.com.au/clinicians/results-and-reporting/infectious-disease-reports/>

COVID Car Collections

In late April 2020, COVID-19 surveillance was extended to testing beyond the suspect case definition. This means that COVID-19 testing is available for ANY symptomatic patients: fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or history of fever e.g. night sweats, chills OR acute respiratory infection e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat where no other clinical focus of infection or alternate explanation of the patient's illness is evident.

In addition to attending any of our 80 COVID-19 collection centres, COVID car collections are now available at many SNP locations. On arrival at the location the patient simply calls a mobile phone number and waits in their car for the collector.

For more information and to locate a COVID car collection site see <https://www.snp.com.au/our-locations/?P=3>

need to enter into the web page to open the report.

For further help, please contact Doctors Services IT on (07) 3377 8611 or your Medical Liaison Manager on 1300 767 284.

Sullivan Nicolaides PATHOLOGY **Sonic Dx RESULTS**

Welcome to Secure Report Access

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This report does not constitute or contain medical advice intended for patients. If you have any queries regarding its interpretation, please contact the doctor who ordered these tests (specified in the header of the result).

To access this result you will need to enter its unique 4-digit PIN code. This code may have been sent to you by SMS or exchanged privately.

With Compliments,
Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology

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