

## Sent with approval of JHH Executive

Dear Staff,

### Current Situation

As of today (20<sup>th</sup> April 2020), JHH has 2 confirmed admitted patients with COVID-19.

I am pleased to be able to report some very promising news with no new coronavirus cases reported in the last 24 hours. The total for the LHD remains at 276 with Australia seeing less than a 1% a day increase for seven days running!

But we can't afford to let up yet. We need to keep doing what we're doing - staying home as much as possible, keeping your distance from other people and practising good hygiene.

### Communication

The next JHH staff information Broadcast is scheduled for Wednesday 22.4.2020 at 10.30am, staff can join this information session from any PC or mobile device browser by following this link: [Join the meeting](#)

*From this week, our JHH Updates will reduce to second daily with releases Monday, Wednesday and Friday.*

### Staff Wellbeing

To help staff keep a healthy and positive mind and Body, [Body Beyond Limits](#) have created a virtual space for HNELHD staff offering a program with daily live workouts, yoga in your lounge room, nutrition plans and advice from

Newcastle's best health and fitness professionals. To find out more, please follow this [link](#).

Who	What	When	Need
McDonalds	Free small McCafe hot drink or medium soft drink	Now / Anytime until May 17th	Staff ID
Nando's	50% discount for Healthcare workers	Now	Staff ID
Coles & Woolworths	Dedicated shopping time for Healthcare workers	Now /Tuesday and Thursday 7am-8 am	Staff ID
Hungry Jacks	Free medium coffee, soft drink or water	Now / Anytime until May 31st	Staff ID
Paymasters	50% discount for Healthcare workers on takeaway menu	Now	Staff ID
Optus	3 Month fee waiver for post-paid mobile access	Now	Staff ID
Subo	Weekly free staff meal giveaway staff can register using this link: <a href="https://mailchi.mp/841a74d183d9/suboathome">https://mailchi.mp/841a74d183d9/suboathome</a>	Now	Staff ID

# Local Healthcare Heroes

Leanne Johnson



John Hunter nurse Jacqui Rodgers is confident her protective equipment and handwashing regime will protect her as she swabs suspected COVID-19 patients.  
PICTURE: Marina Neil



John Hunter Hospital's director of intensive care, Dr Jorge Brieva, sees a time when coronavirus will be a controlled illness not a feared enemy.  
Picture: Marina Neil

The *Newcastle Herald*, and the rest of Australian Community Media's news outlets, are formally thanking all healthcare workers for their individual and collective effort in helping battle this unexpected and deadly foe.

Interviewed today, John Hunter Hospital's head of intensive care, Dr Jorge Brieva, and nurse Jacqui Rodgers, are thankful that everyone - or almost everyone - has recognised the severity of the situation and accepted the strictures necessary to counter the virus.

Although each death is a tragedy, Australia is coping remarkably well. With 6457 cases, so far, and 67 deaths, our fatality rate is just 1 per cent, or one person in 100.

Dr Brieva's hope is for COVID-19 to a "controllable illness" rather than a "fearful enemy".

But even if we do learn the "social responsibility" to keep the virus at bay, frontline healthcare workers will continue to bear a disproportionate degree of risk until a vaccine can be found.

As Dr Brieva observes, history shows us that we do, eventually, beat the contagious illnesses that have caused humankind great pain and suffering.

In the meantime, we must all do what we can to ensure that we stay out of harm's way, and give thanks to those whose roles in life puts them perilously close to the virus.

*Credit – The Newcastle Herald 20.4.2020*

Thanks again for all of the work that has led to JHH being really well prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic and in anticipation of the ongoing work involved in providing patient care, teaching, training and clinical research.

Leanne Johnson  
General Manager  
Incident Controller