MEDIA RELEASE

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New campaign helps tourists get tested for COVID-19

Visitors to the Sunshine Coast experiencing cold and flu-like symptoms can easily find a place to get tested for COVID-19 thanks to a new campaign by a local primary health organisation.

Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN is using targeted online advertising to connect visitors to the region to nearby clinics who are testing for COVID-19, to find a general practitioner nearest to them, and to make a self-assessment using a symptom checker.

The PHN's Senior Manager for Primary Health Care Robb Major said the advertisements were being shown to those inside a virtual perimeter, meaning residents as well as visitors would also likely see the information as they browsed the internet while on the Sunshine Coast.

"We are running these ads on the top 100 websites as well as on Facebook, so if you're looking online while you're at the beach or in the hinterland, there's a good chance you'll have the ad appear on your news feed," Mr Major said.

"The ads link back to the PHN's COVID-19 'get tested' webpage, which focusses on three simple objectives: finding a testing location near you, finding a doctor near you, and checking your symptoms.

"The Sunshine Coast is a popular destination, so it's important that facilities are not only available for people who may not have a regular local doctor, but are easy to find."

Testing for COVID-19 is currently available at respiratory clinics, funded by the Commonwealth and run by local health practitioners, and at fever clinics set up by the Hospital and Health Service. Some pathology providers are also equipped to test for the virus.

Noosa Mayor Clare Stewart said it was vital that people visiting the region on holidays were aware of the options available to them.

"Between government restrictions, the efforts of health organisations like the PHN and the Hospital and Health Service, and the vigilance of our community, we have done well in managing our COVID-19 response on the Sunshine Coast so far," Ms Stewart said.

"But as people travel across the state to visit our beautiful beaches and hinterland areas, and continue to return to their regular work and lifestyle patterns, now is not the time to be complacent.

"Anyone experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms should get tested for COVID-19 and this campaign will help connect people to the most accurate information about where and when they can be tested."

Symptoms of COVID-19 are very similar to those of a cold or flu, and can include a cough, sore throat, fever, trouble breathing, fatigue, or a runny nose.

To check your symptoms online, and find a COVID-19 testing location and/or a doctor near you, visit: www.ourphn.org.au/covid-19-get-tested

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For more information contact: Jasmin Midgley, Senior Media and Communications Officer, Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN on 0451 300 050.