

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



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STORIES FROM CORONAVIRUS SURVIVORS

Victorians are being reminded that coronavirus does not discriminate – and that even those who recover from the virus are left with long-term consequences, both physical and psychological.

As part of its ongoing efforts to keep the community updated and informed, the Victorian Government is sharing the real stories of real Victorians who are still battling the ongoing effects of the virus.

These stories show that not only can coronavirus permanently weaken its victims – it does not discriminate based on age, location or background.

The campaign includes the experiences of Victorians who are still fighting the disease and in isolation, with equipment delivered to people in their home to film their own stories.

The campaign will also continue to share the stories of the men and women who are the last line in our defence – our medical professionals. That includes in-language messages to speak to culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians, ensuring our efforts are reaching into every part of the state.

The latest of these stories will begin to rollout on screens and social media from today.

Also beginning today is the new Call-to-Test service, providing in-home coronavirus testing to Victorians who would otherwise be unable to get tested.

This includes older Victorians, Victorians with a disability, carers and those with an illness that might prevent them from leaving home. For eligible callers located in Melbourne, testers will visit within 48 hours.

Researchers both around the world and here in Australia are finding out more and more each day about the long-term effects of coronavirus – even after “recovery”. These findings show that even in mild cases, coronavirus can cause permanent scarring of the lungs, heart damage, nerve damage, ongoing fatigue, brain damage and more.

Even those who may escape some of the more serious long-term physical impacts of coronavirus are often left mentally scarred, with international evidence suggesting increasing rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in those who have recovered from the virus.

While much still remains unknown about coronavirus, it is clear that it’s the actions of Victorians that will slow the spread of this virus. It’s why, as always, we’re asking everyone to play their part by staying home – and staying safe.

The latest selection of stories will be made available at vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

“If you were in any doubt, the stories of these Victorians will leave you with no question – coronavirus is brutal.”

“This is a virus that does not discriminate. It impacts young and old – and even after ‘recovery’ it has the ability to leave its victims permanently scarred.”

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos

“For all we don’t yet know about coronavirus, what is clear is that it’s the actions of Victorians that will drive this virus down and get us through to the other side. That includes staying home – and if you have symptoms, getting tested.”