Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC)

Inquiry into the Victorian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

11 August 2020

Hon Jenny Mikakos MLC
Minister for the Coordination of Health and Human Services – COVID-19
Victoria’s second wave
Restrictions have slowed the growth in cases

Epidemic curve showing daily cases of COVID-19 in Victoria. Red arrows indicate dates of introduction of physical distancing measures. The effects of policy changes take approximately 10-11 days to be seen in daily case numbers due to incubation period and the time from symptom onset to diagnosis.
Modelling has shown what could have happened
Restrictions have protected our health system

18,500 infections per day
8,200 hospital beds required
1,700 ICU beds required

Current second wave

Date
Number of infections per day
Date
Beds required
Built new hospital beds

- Boosted inpatient capacity by more than 400 more beds, ensuring hospitals can manage COVID-19 demand and continue to treat patients with other conditions across metropolitan and regional Victoria.
- 84 new beds at St Vincent’s on the Park (the former Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre)
- 50 new beds and consulting rooms at Baxter House in Geelong
- 45 new beds at Bendigo Hospital

Accelerated projects to early completion

- 140 beds at Casey Hospital
- 88 beds at the new inpatient tower at Shepparton Hospital
Critical care capacity

- 1,556 ICU and critical care spaces have been prepared to date across public and private hospitals.
- Extra ICU and critical care beds in three stages: 1,556 prepared to date, 1,300 in stage 2 and 1,400 in stage 3 if required.
- Ordered 5,216 ventilators, 130 dialysis machines and 2,945 patient monitors
- Utilised the agreement with Victoria’s private hospitals to add significant capacity for a system-wide response
- Rapid expansion of innovative models of care including Telehealth and Hospital in the Home to keep patients and healthcare workers safe
Strengthened the healthcare workforce
Acted early to protect our heroes

**Prepared our workforce**

- Centralised PPE procurement and distribution
- Ordered more than 805 million gloves, 154 million masks and 26 million gowns
- Launched the Working for Victoria – Health Portal
- Training to help prepare and protect our frontline workers
- Planning for backfill for healthcare workforce
- Accommodation to support frontline health workers who need to self-isolate
Our public health response continues to grow and evolve
Testing, tracing and isolating

**Testing**
- Built an extensive network of 188 testing sites across Victoria
- More than 1,700,000 tests completed included a massive testing blitz
- Adaptation of testing strategy based on emerging needs and priorities
- Targeted engagement and testing in high risk settings
- Rapid response testing squads
- Call to test

**Contact tracing**
- More than 2600 disease detectives
- ADF doorknocking
- Outbreak unit – rapid response squads
- Regional public health teams
STAYING APART KEEPS US TOGETHER