September 9-10, 2020

Melbourne - Victoria

Simon Ruth
CEO
Thorne Harbour Health
Australia

- Pop. 25.5 million
- 90% urbanized
- 30% born overseas
- Universal Healthcare (residents)
  - Primary care, Pharmaceuticals – Fed
  - Hospitals, Prevention, MH/AoD - State
- Fires - 10 of previous 12 months
Melbourne

- FTC since 2014
- Cascade 89% - 98% - 96%
- Pop. Melb 4.97 million
  Vic 6.49 million
- Strong partnership approach
  - Regulated sex work (1984)
  - Needle Syringe programs (1987)
- New cases - 90% male
- Strong PrEP uptake – MSM
Australia has managed to drive down COVID-19 cases everywhere except Victoria

New cases from all sources

Source: Data from state and territory updates, collated by Barry (2020)
Victoria had eight times more local cases in the second wave than it did in the first.
A timeline of Victoria’s lockdown restrictions

Daily new COVID-19 cases in Victoria by source of infection

- Overseas
- Local and under investigation

- *11.59pm 8 July – Stage 3 lockdown of Greater Melbourne
- Full lockdown of 9 public housing blocks & lockdown of another 2 postcodes
- Stage 3 lockdown for 10 postcodes
- Vic mandatory testing for hotel quarantine
- Vic restrictions tighten (e.g. 5 guests)
- Vic work from home directive
- Vic restrictions ease (e.g. cafes open)
- Vic restrictions begin to ease (e.g. 5 guests)
- Schools begin to re-open F2F
- Schools re-open for online learning
- Vic restrictions begin to ease
- Australian borders close
- Vic schools effectively close
- Stage 3 lockdown
- Stage 2 lockdown
- Stage 1 lockdown
- Vic State of Emergency declared
- Self-isolation of overseas arrivals

Note: Only major events shown in grey. Data current as at 6 July 2020.
Source: Data collated by Guardian Australia
Further Timeline

• 6/7 - NSW (last) border closed (127 cases)

• 2/8 – Stage 4 restrictions – 671 cases
  • Curfew 8 PM – 5 AM
  • Work permits – essential workers
  • 5 KM radius
  • Mandatory mask wearing
  • Melbourne border
  • Visit intimate partner
  • For six weeks to 13 Sept
  • Health open – NSP, Primary care

• 6/9 – Announced extension of Stage 4 and Roadmap for Reopening - December
## Latest Victorian Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New cases (last 24 hours)</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test results received (last 24 hours)</td>
<td>14,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives lost (last 24 hours)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active cases</td>
<td>1,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cases</td>
<td>19,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total tests</td>
<td>2,443,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total lives lost</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovered</td>
<td>17,484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Updated: 10 September 2020 03:45pm*
Cases by age and gender

![Cases by age and gender chart](chart.png)
Outbreaks

• Over crowded housing
• Six prisons in lockdown
• Essential workers
  • Meat works
  • Fast food
  • Groceries
• Aged Care outbreaks
• Low paid workers
• Drug users - media
COVID risk messaging

- Social media
- Community print and radio
- Apps – Grindr, Squirt, Scruff
- Street Posters
BBV/STI trends

Notifications from Jan-July 2020 compared to same period in 2019

- HBV – 22% reduction
- HCV – 22% reduction
- Gonorrhoea – 20% reduction
- HIV – 10% reduction
- Syphilis – 5% reduction
HIV nPEP

Initial Consultations with Antiretroviral Drug Count per Month
July 2019 – July 2020

Number of Initial Consultations

Month

Jul/19  Aug/19  Sep/19  Oct/19  Nov/19  Dec/19  Jan/20  Feb/20  Mar/20  Apr/20  May/20  Jun/20  Jul/20

0 drugs  12  163  140  143  138  139  139  114  109  41  79  102  68
2 drugs  11  5  5  6  8  11  11  5  6  3  2  1  1
3 drugs  8  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1

0 drugs  12  163  140  143  138  139  139  114  109  41  79  102  68
2 drugs  11  5  5  6  8  11  11  5  6  3  2  1  1
3 drugs  8  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
PrEP during COVID

Chow, E, et al. “Changing the Use of HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis Among Men Who Have Sex With Men During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Melbourne, Australia” eric.chow@monash.edu
Issues

Communication
• Messaging into communities
• Sex work confusion
• Message fatigue

Hardship
• Long term furloughing
• Mental health concerns
• Financial hardship

Isolation
• Loneliness
• Mental health
• Loss

Systems
• Loss of BBV scientific/medical leadership
• Car based testing
Programs

• Telehealth appointments
• Co-payment waivers
• Pharmacotherapy – 6+ take away doses at a time
• Longer scripts
• Solved homelessness
• Targeted Education – PrEP
• Volunteer social supports
• Outreach care
Thanks
Melbourne FTC Partners
• Victorian Government
• City of Melbourne
• Doherty Institute
• Burnet Institute
• Living Positive Victoria
• Positive Women Victoria
• Thorne Harbour Health