

Wallaby Ward admission for children with COVID-19

Your child has been admitted to Wallaby Ward. We are a virtual ward of the hospital that operates every day including public holidays.

Our telephone number is 03 9345 4770. Between 7am-9pm you will come through to the Nurse in Charge, between 9pm-7am you will come through to the Emergency Department.

If you or your child requires urgent medical care, please call 000.

It is important that your child and those that have been living with them remain isolated until Public Health authorities inform you it is safe for you to return to your usual activities.

Why is my child admitted to Wallaby?

Wallaby Ward works is a hospital ward with doctors and nurses reviewing the patients. The difference is your child can receive their care at home rather than stay in a hospital bed.

What should we expect while on Wallaby?

Your child will be reviewed daily via telehealth (via phone or video). If needed we will come and visit your home, if this is required, our staff will be wearing full protective equipment to prevent further spread of the virus.

You will be invited to use a smart phone app or link via the MyRCH portal to monitor your child's symptoms twice a day.

If you are concerned you can contact our team at any time.

What can I do to help my child feel better?

Most children will have a mild illness. They may have fever, be more tired than usual, have stomach ache, headache or muscle aches. These symptoms can be managed with paracetamol or ibuprofen, with usual doses according to the instructions on the packaging.

Your child may experience nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting or diarrhoea. It is important that children have regular small amounts of fluids offered to avoid dehydration. If they are unable to drink enough or are not producing urine then please call us, as they may need further support. Some children will have chest pain or breathing difficulties. If you are concerned that your child is having trouble with their breathing please follow the instructions below for deterioration.

What if I'm worried my child is getting worse?

Depending on your level of concern – either call the Wallaby Ward on 9345 4770 or call 000 and ask for an ambulance (state you are requesting an ambulance for a child with confirmed COVID-19).

Signs of concern:

- Dusky or very pale colour
- Working very hard to breathe, breathing very fast, long pauses in between breaths
- Very sleepy, difficult to wake or confused
- No urine output
- Severe chest or abdominal pain that doesn't go away, or persistent dizziness

How do I use the Symptom Tracker?

Our team will help you activate a portal account for your child. The symptom tracker questionnaire is always available for you to complete on the portal.

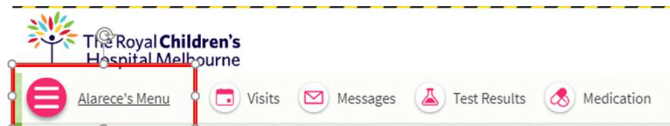
The symptom tracker should be completed when your child wakes every morning. This will allow our team to schedule an earlier review if required.

Completing it again in the afternoon will help our team decide what type of review is needed, this may just be a quick phone call or message.

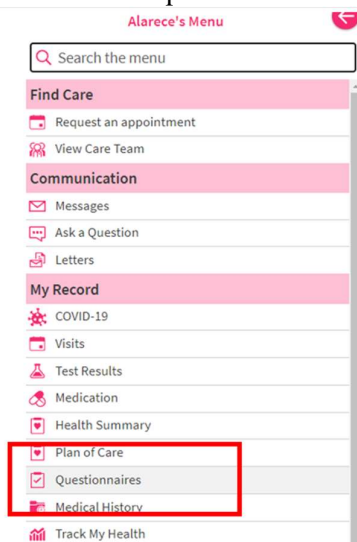
You can also fill in the tracker any time there is a change in your child's condition to alert our team. Our team are constantly monitoring responses between 8am and 8pm.

For android users, you will need to use the web-based portal either on a computer or via the internet browser on your phone. Apple users can use the app directly.

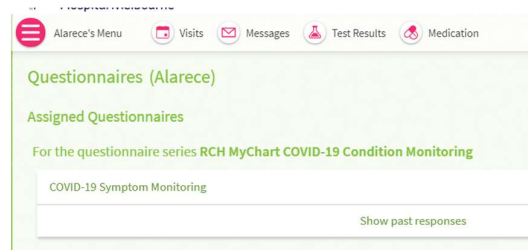
1. Select menu



2. Select questionnaires



3. Click on the questionnaire to fill it out.



3. Remember to hit submit once you have finished!

I've been sent home with an oximeter - when do I use it?

For some children, the additional information regarding heart rate and oxygen saturations can be useful. If this is the case for your child, they will have been sent home with a device that they should place on their finger at the time you complete your symptom check and during telehealth reviews. It is important to note that these numbers fluctuate over time and we are measuring trends not reacting to a single measurement. We strongly advocate that you don't use the device at other times unless instructed to do so by your doctor or nurse

We are frequently updating our policies and procedures and we endeavour to keep you informed of any changes that may affect the provision of care to your child.

We understand that this may be a very stressful time for your family, particularly if your child is unwell. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's care on Wallaby Ward, please contact us on 9345 4770.