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## Respiratory clinic opens

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A GP-LED respiratory clinic is now open in St Helens at the Ochre Medical Centre as part of the Federal Government's \$2.4 billion health package in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The respiratory clinic is one of up to 100 clinics that will be set up across Australia, and will play a vital role in supporting patients in North-East Tasmania throughout the pandemic.

Ochre Health director of medical services and President of the Rural Doctors Association Dr John Hall, said the new service was established to support people suffering from any mild to moderate respiratory symptoms, keeping them separate from other patients at general practices and health facilities, thereby protecting both staff and patients.

Patients are eligible for the clinic if they have mild to moderate respiratory symptoms (fever, cough,

shortness of breath, sore throat and/or tiredness) and are not currently identified as being COVID-19 positive.

For patients over 70 years of age, a telehealth consult with their regular GP is highly recommended in the first instance to determine whether a physical assessment is necessary.

The clinic is open Monday to Friday 12.30pm – 4.30pm.

All patients need to make an appointment as the clinic does not accept walk-ins.

Appointments can be made from 9am to 4pm by calling 6351 0007 or you can book online at [ochrehealth.com.au/sthelens](http://ochrehealth.com.au/sthelens)

Anyone with severe symptoms is encouraged to call 000, and those with cold or flu-like symptoms who are unsure of their testing options should call their GP or the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738.