

Information for patients with flu-like symptoms

If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, you are encouraged to visit your general practitioner for assessment and advice. Swine flu symptoms are similar to regular flu: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue. Some people have also reported diarrhoea and vomiting. For those people experiencing flu-like symptoms, who are unable to visit their general practitioner or have been directed by their general practitioner to Austin Hospital, there are two options:

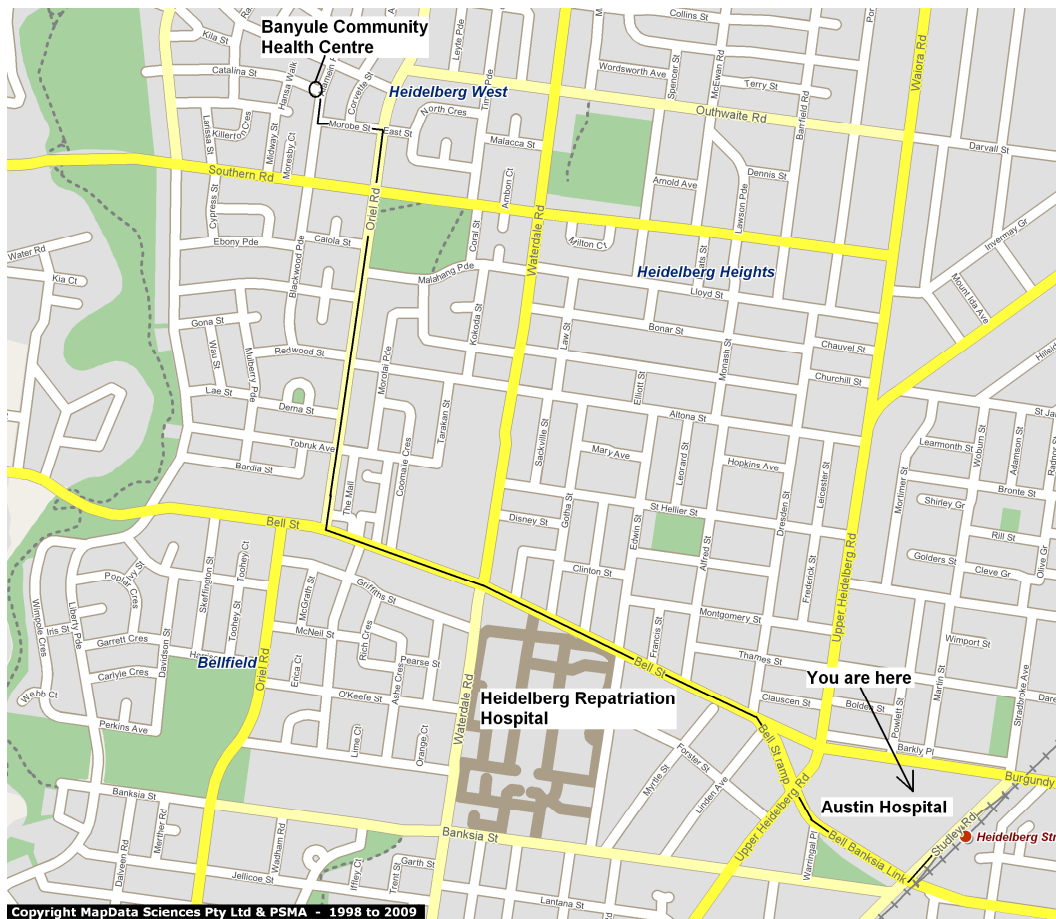
- Patients with mild to moderate symptoms should attend Banyule Community Health Centre Flu Clinic
- Patients with severe symptoms such as breathing difficulties or other associated complications (eg breathing difficulties, pregnancy, diabetes, airways disease) should be seen at Austin Hospital

You will be assessed by a triage nurse at Austin Hospital and may be directed to the Banyule Community Health Centre Flu Clinic if your symptoms are mild.

Banyule Community Health Centre Flu Clinic

Banyule Health Community Centre, in conjunction with Austin Hospital, has established a flu clinic. This clinic operates seven days a week from 9.00am – 5.00pm and is located approximately 2 km from Austin Hospital (see over for map). All patients presenting to Austin Hospital with mild flu symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue are being directed to this clinic. Clinic information is as follows:

- 21 Alamein Rd, on the corner of Catalina St, Heidelberg West
- Telephone 03 9450 2000 (follow prompts) and fax 03 9459 5808
- Appointments are not required
- Please bring your Medicare card
- Patients visiting the Banyule Community Health Centre Flu Clinic should enter via Alamein Road and follow signs that provide directions to the clinic
- Free parking is available in the Centre's Catalina St and Alamein Rd car parks
- Swine flu is tested via swab testing of the inside of a patient's throat or nose. The tests are not routinely given to all patients who present to clinics or the Emergency Department, only to those who meet the testing guidelines of the Victorian Department of Human Services or on the treating physician's recommendation.



Access to Tamiflu

Austin Hospital doctors will assess your symptoms and make a decision about whether Tamiflu will help you. Most patients with confirmed cases of swine flu have been getting better quickly without the need for Tamiflu.

Tamiflu is used to reduce the severity of symptoms and is only useful if administered within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. It is not a “cure” and our stocks are being used very sparingly for those who need it most. Side effects such as vomiting occur in 15% of cases.