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Shopping centre visits help stop the spread of COVID-19

Frontline healthcare staff working in one of Australia's most multiculturally diverse communities are taking the fight against COVID-19 to local shopping centres, using the power of their own languages to help stop the spread.

In south-western Sydney, around 51 per cent of residents speak a language other than English at home and more than 44 per cent of the population was born overseas.

In a state-wide first, healthcare staff in full uniform, including nurses and multicultural health workers, with Vietnamese, Arabic, Hindi and Assyrian heritage are speaking in their first languages to shoppers at Narellan Town Centre, Campbelltown Mall and Carnes Hill Marketplace, to encourage them to take every measure to protect themselves and their loved ones during the pandemic.

From Friday 13 November, the team will be at Westfield Liverpool to answer COVID-related questions from the local community. From Monday 23 November, they will be at Oran Park Podium.

The District's Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said community members appreciated the opportunity to speak in their own languages to healthcare staff, who are acting as roving COVID ambassadors in their communities.

"This is an opportunity for shoppers to engage our staff in their own language and hear first-hand how to stay safe during the pandemic and stop community transmission," Ms Larkin said.

"We are a community of many cultures and our shopping centre visits are another way we are sharing important information.

"Thank you to everyone who stops to ask questions and receive information. By supporting each other and working together, we can help to keep our community safe."

Ms Larkin said anyone who was feeling unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms such as a runny nose or scratchy throat, should come forward to get tested.

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, get tested and isolate right away if you are unwell. Make sure you wash your hands regularly, maintain a physical distance of 1.5m from others and wear a face mask when you can't physically distance.

The NSW Government is investing \$800 million additional funding into the health system over two years on top of the 2019-20 Health Budget of \$26.7 billion to help boost ICU capacity and purchase additional services and medical equipment in response to COVID-19.