



# Clinician alert #30 – all clinicians

Effective from 30 July 2020

## New information

### Testing of people who have entered Western Australia (WA) and have been in New South Wales (NSW) or Victoria within the 14 days prior to arrival in WA

- People who have been in NSW or Victoria within the 14 days prior to arrival in WA must present for testing within 48 hours of arrival and on day 11 after arrival in WA as per the [Presentation for Testing Directions No 3](#)
- Those who are given a Centre Quarantine Direction will be tested at the hotel
- Those who are not given a Centre Quarantine Direction and who arrive by air directly from NSW / Victoria will be tested prior to leaving the airport and on day 11 whilst in home quarantine.
- Testing under this circumstance can **only** occur at WA government [COVID clinics](#), or at one of the listed WA regional hospitals (Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Port Hedland)
- Testing for this purpose **cannot** be carried out at private collection centres or GP respiratory clinics
- If a patient presents to a GP for this testing, they should be referred to one of the facilities listed above
- Patients must complete their 14 days quarantine even if they receive a negative result

### Indian Ocean Territory arrivals

- According to the [Exempt Traveller Approval \(Indian Ocean Territories\)](#) as of 24/07/20 arrivals from the IOT are no longer required to undergo 14 days quarantine in WA
- Asymptomatic patients who have arrived from the IOT can be managed with standard precautions in hospital settings

### Other

- Consider testing for COVID in anyone who presents with acute loss of smell or taste.
- COVID-19 testing for entry requirements for overseas governments should not occur at WA government COVID clinics. GPs should refer to a private pathology collection centre.

### Testing criteria

Consider testing **with PCR** for people with:

Fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **OR** recent history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source,

**OR**

Acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

**OR**

Acute loss of smell or taste

This is especially important for people with any of the following epidemiological criteria:

- anyone who lives or works in a high-risk setting with direct patient contact (e.g. healthcare, aged care or residential care)
- contacts of a confirmed or probable case
- people returning from outside WA in the last 14 days or have lived/ travelled through an area with elevated risk of community transmission
- where clinical and public health have determined a hospitalised patient with non-specific signs of infection is at increased risk of COVID

## **PCR is the test of choice for any person with acute symptoms of COVID-19.**

Discuss further PCR testing in **previously cleared** COVID-19 cases with public health (1300 316 555).

## **Testing for entry requirements for overseas governments**

- When a person is undergoing asymptomatic testing for visa or travel requirements, they should be referred to a private pathology collection centre by their GP.
- The reason for the test must be noted by the medical practitioner on the pathology form as "entry requirement by overseas country for immigration or travel".
- Testing for this purpose is not permitted at WA government COVID clinics.

## **Further information**

Refer to [Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #10](#) for further information regarding:

- Serology testing criteria
- Isolation following testing
- Requesting testing for visa requirements
- Restrictions related to testing of asymptomatic patients

## **Release from isolation of cases**

Refer to the [Release from isolation factsheet](#) for information about case clearance.

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**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE**

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**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.**

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