



Novel Coronavirus

INFORMATION FOR WA CLINICIANS

KEY POINTS

- Consider 2019-nCoV in patients **with respiratory symptoms, including mild respiratory symptoms, regardless of fever, who have travelled to or transited through mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) in the 14 days before illness onset.**
- Place a surgical mask on and isolate any patients meeting these criteria in a single room with the door closed or a negative pressure room if available.
- Urgently notify a WA Health Public Health Physician of any patients meeting these criteria by contacting your local PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT.
- For up to date information refer to the health.wa.gov.au/coronavirus webpage.

Asymptomatic travelers do not need to be tested but should self-isolate as directed below:

- people arriving in Australia as of 29 January who have travelled to Hubei Province, China must isolate themselves at home for 14 days after departing from Hubei Province
- people arriving in Australia as of 1 February who have travelled to or transited through mainland China on or after 1 February, must isolate themselves at home for 14 days after departing China
- medical clearance certificates are not required

Patients meeting the following criteria should be assessed for 2019-nCoV:

- acute respiratory infection (with at least one of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat) regardless of fever, AND
- travel in, or transit through, mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan) in the 14 days before symptom onset, OR close contact with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV

Isolate and apply infection control precautions for any patients with suspected 2019-nCoV

- place a surgical mask on the patient and isolate suspect cases in a single room with the door closed or a negative pressure room if available
- use standard, contact and droplet precautions: a disposable fluid resistant gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection while reviewing the patient
- immediately notify a WA Health Public Health Physician to discuss testing
- if patients require emergency attention, phone ahead to the Emergency Department to advise

Arrange testing for 2019-nCoV and other respiratory pathogens

- for specimen collection use airborne precautions - a P2 or N95 mask, and obtain the following:
 - a nasopharyngeal swab OR nose and throat swabs (swab the nose and swab the throat separately) using dry swabs for PCR testing
 - in a hospital setting consider obtaining a lower tract sample – sputum or an endotracheal tube aspirate for PCR testing
 - collect serum “to store” for use when serology testing becomes available
- samples can be sent to any pathology laboratory with an urgent request for ‘respiratory virus panel and novel coronavirus’ and specify the travel history and public health advice
- specimen collection is available at PathWest collection centres (except Fiona Stanley Hospital)

Call your local public health unit and speak to the Public Health Physician

Metro 9222 8588 / 1300 MDCWA (1300623292)	Kimberley 9194 1630	South West 9781 2350
Goldfields 9080 8200	Midwest 9956 1985	Wheatbelt 9690 1720
Great Southern 9842 7500	Pilbara 9174 1660	After hours/OnCall 9328 0553