Clinician alert #18 – all clinicians

New information

Healthcare workers, aged care workers and **police officers** with fever OR acute respiratory infection with or without fever should be tested for COVID-19.

Testing for COVID-19 may be undertaken with an oropharyngeal (throat) swab then either a **nasal** or nasopharyngeal swab (use a single swab for both sites).

Suspect cases for testing

Test for COVID-19 in the following, public health approval is NOT required:
Clinically compatible illness: Fever or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat) with or without fever, AND

- proven international travel (e.g. boarding pass, flight booking) or any travel on a cruise ship (e.g. cruise booking, itinerary) in the 14 days before illness onset, OR
- *proven* close contact in 14 days before illness onset (call local PHU to confirm) with a confirmed case of COVID-19
- healthcare workers, aged or residential care workers, disability support workers, and police officers; proof is required (e.g. badge, workplace ID or AHPRA card)

Testing for the above patients is ONLY to be done at COVID clinics in metropolitan Perth. In country areas testing can only be undertaken by hospitals, COVID clinics, health centres and remote health clinics operated by the WA Country Health Service, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or RFDS.

High risk settings

Suspect COVID in high risk settings; approval to test from a **Public Health Physician; a PHP Code will be given that must be written on the pathology form:**

- where there are *two or more* people with illness clinically compatible with COVID-19 (as defined above), in aged care and other residential care facilities, military operational settings, boarding schools, correctional facilities, detention centres, Aboriginal rural and remote communities, and settings where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred.
- individuals with illness clinically compatible with COVID-19 (as defined above) in a geographically localized area with elevated risk of community transmission, as defined by public health.

Hospitalised patients

Test for COVID-19 in the following; public health approval is NOT required for testing:

- hospitalised patients with fever (38C or higher) AND acute respiratory infection of an unknown cause

Testing

- Test using a single swab for oropharyngeal then either nasal (if using rigid shaft swab) or nasopharyngeal (if using flexible shaft) sampling. Self-collection is NOT advised. Instructions for specimen collection are on the PathWest website.
- The reason for testing or PHP Code must be documented on the pathology request form.
- Do not test asymptomatic patients or undertake testing for 'clearance' or return to work purposes.

- Patients tested for COVID-19 need to remain isolated until instructed otherwise.

Call Public Health regarding testing for ALL high-risk settings

Perth Metro 9222 8588 / 1300 MCDCWA (1300623292)	Kimberley 9194 1630	South West 9781 2359
Goldfields 9080 8200	Midwest 9956 1985	Wheatbelt 9690 1720
Great Southern 9842 7500	Pilbara 9174 1660	After hours/on call 9328 0553

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either Online or by printing out the notification form. Notifying by phone is not necessary.

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE