Kimberley Regional Alert #1
All Clinicians

COVID-19 cluster in the Kimberley

A cluster of COVID-19 cases has been identified in Broome in the Kimberley, WA. Clinicians are advised to have a lower threshold for testing for COVID-19 in Broome due to limited local transmission. A lower threshold for testing for COVID-19 is also being advised for Halls Creek as a precautionary measure, following identification of a case in Halls Creek.

Testing advice for Broome and Halls Creek

Test for COVID-19 in **any person (Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal):**

- in the 14 days prior to illness onset lived in or travelled through Broome or Halls Creek

AND

- Fever (≥38°C) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

Testing can be undertaken at the Broome COVID clinic, hospitals, health centres and remote health clinics operated by the WA Country Health Service, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or RFDS. Test by obtaining an oropharyngeal (throat) swab then either a nasal or nasopharyngeal swab (use a single swab for both sites).

Testing advice for the remainder of the Kimberley

Testing advice for the remainder of the Kimberley remains the same as for WA, as per the latest clinician alert (https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID-19-clinical-alerts); this includes a request for clinicians to consider testing the following:

- any person with documented fever (≥38 C) AND acute respiratory infection.
- Aboriginal people in rural and remote communities where there are two or more plausibly-linked cases of illness clinically consistent with fever or history of fever OR acute respiratory infection with or without fever.

Call Public Health if you require guidance on testing:

Kimberley PHU (08) 9194 1630	After hours/on call (08) 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

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