



Clinician Alert #10 General Practitioners Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Saturday 29th February 2020

NEW INFORMATION

Test for COVID-19 in people with a clinically compatible illness who have travelled to **Cambodia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea** and/or **Thailand** in the 14 days before onset of symptoms.

Suspected case:

Fever or acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever, AND

- travel to (including transit through) **mainland China** in the 14 days before the onset of illness, OR
- close or casual contact in 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Person under investigation:

- A clinically compatible illness AND
- travel to (excluding transit through an airport) **Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea** and/or **Thailand** in the 14 days before onset of illness.

Advise patients who do not require inpatient care to **self-isolate** at home while awaiting results of COVID-19 testing.

Testing and infection control:

Patient

- Give the patient a surgical mask to put on and direct to a single room with the door closed.
- Patients with severe symptoms suggestive of pneumonia (breathing difficulty, or frequent, severe or productive cough) should be managed and tested in a hospital in a negative pressure isolation room where possible, phone ahead to the Emergency Department to advise.

Clinician

- Use standard, contact and droplet precautions: a disposable fluid resistant gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection while testing patients with mild symptoms.

Testing

- Dry swabs for PCR testing: a nasopharyngeal swab AND an oropharyngeal (throat) swab placed in transport medium.
- Serum "to store" for use when serology testing becomes available.

Send samples to any pathology laboratory with an urgent request for 'respiratory virus panel and SARS-CoV-2' with any travel/case contact history. Specimen collection is available at most collection centres and domiciliary collection may be possible. Call ahead for advice.

Reporting:

Suspected COVID-19 is urgently notifiable by phone. 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/on call 9328 0553

For up to date information refer to the WA Health COVID-19 website (www.health.wa.gov.au/coronavirus)

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL