



Clinician alert #81 – all clinicians

Effective from 25 February 2022

New information

- New guidance is available to assist in managing a COVID-19 exposure in a healthcare practice setting.
- Resources providing advice for cases and contacts is now available on [HealthyWA](#).
- There has been an unexpected wastewater detection in the shire of Kellerberrin.

COVID-19 guidelines for healthcare practices

- COVID-19 guidelines for healthcare practices in the community in a high and very high caseload environment are available at the 'Transition policies and resources for healthcare workers' page of the [WA Health website](#).
- The guidelines advise on:
 - Performing a risk assessment after a COVID-19 exposure
 - Recommended healthcare worker furloughing policies
 - Management of cases and close contacts
 - Cleaning and potential closure of premises.

Case and close contact information

- With high case numbers of COVID-19 in the community, it is often quicker for cases to identify and inform their close contacts. WA Health may not be able to contact all close contacts directly.
- Factsheets outlining [what to do when you test positive for COVID-19](#) and [what to do if you are a COVID-19 close contact](#) are available for cases and close contacts at [HealthyWA](#).

Unexpected wastewater detection of SARS-CoV-2 in Kellerberrin

- Testing of anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 in Western Australia, including in the shire of Kellerberrin, is strongly recommended.
- Testing is available at Kellerberrin Memorial Health Service.

Testing criteria

- [Testing criteria for SARS-CoV-2](#) has been updated.
- PCR remains the preferred test where laboratory capacity allows. If laboratory capacity is overwhelmed, testing via Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) can be used.
- People who are symptomatic and return a negative RAT result should be advised to have a PCR test while testing capacity is available.

Dr Sharon Nowrojee
PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIAN
STATE HEALTH INCIDENT COORDINATION CENTRE