



Clinician alert #23 – All clinicians

Effective from 30 April 2020

New information

- Testing for COVID-19 must occur in accordance with the [COVID-19 Testing Directions](#).
- Testing and specimen collection information, including testing locations, is available in the document '[Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #2](#)'.

Testing criteria

Clinical criteria:

- Fever of at least 38°C OR
- recent history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR
- acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, sore throat).

Test anyone who meets the clinical criteria AND one of the following criteria:

- in the 14 days prior to illness onset has a history of close contact with a confirmed or probable case, international or interstate travel, or travel on a cruise ship,
- any staff with direct patient contact in the healthcare, aged or residential care setting,
- has lived in or travelled through an area confirmed by public health as having increased risk of community transmission, or
- hospitalised patients where no other focus of infection is evident.

Consider testing where an alternative diagnosis is not more likely in any person with clinical criteria.

Asymptomatic testing should not be undertaken for “clearance” or fit for work purposes unless approved by public health. This testing criteria is guided by the [COVID-19 Testing Directions](#) for WA.

All people tested for COVID-19 need to be advised to self-isolate until they have received their test result, at which time further information regarding ongoing isolation requirements will be provided. Include **Indigenous status** on all COVID-19 request forms.

Clearance of cases from infection

- Notify public health of all cases being cleared of COVID-19 infection in the hospital setting, or on discharge from hospital, by calling Public Health Operations on **6373 2222**.
- A person going to a higher risk setting following COVID-19 infection needs to:
 - be at least 10 days after the onset of the acute illness, be afebrile for the previous 48 hours, and have resolution of acute illness for previous 24 hours; and
 - be PCR negative on at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected at least 24 hours apart at least 7 days after symptom onset.
- Higher risk settings include healthcare and residential care facilities, military settings, boarding schools, education settings, childcare centres, correctional facilities, detention centres, workplaces where social distancing can't be readily practiced, remote industrial sites with accommodation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rural and remote communities and settings where COVID-19 outbreaks are occurring as determined by public health
- The Medical Clearance of a Case [Medical Clearance of Case](#) factsheet outlines the clinical criteria for clearance of a case.

Dr Clare Huppatz, PHEOC Coordinator

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE