



Clinician alert #28 – All clinicians

Effective from 21st June 2020

New information

- People with acute loss of smell or loss of taste may be tested in certain circumstances.
- Cases returning to a high-risk setting can be released from isolation based on clinical criteria. Clearance swabs are not required.

Testing criteria

Consider testing with **PCR** for people with:

Fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) **OR** recent history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source,
OR

Acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

This is especially important for:

- anyone who lives or works in a high-risk setting (e.g. healthcare, residential facility)
- contacts of a confirmed case or people returning from outside WA in the last 14 days
- anyone admitted to hospital

Consider testing people with **acute loss of smell or taste** if they **also** meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Close contact of a confirmed or probable case
- Healthcare, aged, or residential care workers with direct patient contact
- Persons who have returned from outside WA or have lived/ travelled through an area with elevated risk of community transmission
- Hospitalised patients where there is no alternative cause

PCR is the test of choice for any person with acute symptoms of COVID-19.

Serology has utility for the diagnosis of **past** COVID-19 infection.

Discuss PCR testing in **previously cleared** COVID-19 cases with public health (1300 316 555).

Refer to '[Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #7](#)' for further information regarding:

- Serology testing criteria
- Isolation following testing
- Requesting testing for visa requirements
- Restrictions related to testing of asymptomatic patients

Release from isolation of cases

Refer to the [Release from isolation of a case factsheet](#) for information about case clearance.

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE

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