



Clinician alert #57 – all clinicians

Effective from 2 May 2021

New information

- A case of COVID-19 has been reported in a security guard who is a contractor at the Pan Pacific Hotel.
- Two of the man's close contacts have also tested positive. Five other close contacts have so far tested negative.
- Other close contacts will be contacted by public health officials and asked to quarantine for 14 days.
- Investigations are underway to determine how the security guard acquired the infection.
- Anyone who attended a location visited by a confirmed case at the specified dates and times listed on the [HealthyWA](#) website ([Public exposure sites](#)) should be tested and isolate until a negative result is obtained, or as otherwise directed by WA Health.

Ongoing restrictions in the Perth Metropolitan and Peel Regions

Masks must be worn at all times outside the home, unless an exemption applies, and people must continue checking-in through contact registers at relevant businesses and venues. Refer to www.wa.gov.au for further information. Further resources regarding mask use are available at [HealthyWA](#).

Triaging patients presenting to health services

All health services should continue to assess people's COVID-19 risk on presentation including:

- COVID-19 symptoms
- Attendance at a location visited by a confirmed case, listed on [HealthyWA](#)
- Travel history and occupation (especially work in quarantine hotels)
- Whether the person is currently in quarantine, e.g. as an identified close contact of a case.

Patients should be managed accordingly using appropriate infection control measures. Clinicians are reminded to stay alert for potential COVID-19 infection in anyone who works in a high-risk setting (e.g. border workers, quarantine centre workers) where there is the potential to be exposed to COVID-19.

SARS-CoV-2 testing

Testing is recommended for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, even those with mild symptoms. Anyone who attended a location visited by a confirmed case at the specified dates and times, needs to be tested and isolate until they have their result, or as otherwise directed by WA Health. Close contacts will be identified and contacted directly by PHEOC.

- Testing can occur at COVID clinics, emergency departments of regional hospitals, GP respiratory clinics and private pathology clinics. WA COVID clinic operation hours will be extended as part of the testing surge. Testing locations and times can be viewed [here](#).
- A GP referral form for testing at private pathology clinics is not required at this time, and testing is free. Patients should be advised to check the private pathology clinic websites for clinic locations and opening hours. Refer to [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia](#).

Reporting

Clinicians are encouraged to notify PHEOC on 1300 316 555 (93280553 A/H) if they strongly suspect a patient has COVID-19 or if they see an unwell patient who is a close contact of a case.

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