



## NEW INFORMATION

Healthcare and aged care workers with fever OR acute respiratory infection with or without fever should be tested for COVID-19.

Suspect COVID-19, approved by Public Health, in **high risk settings**: aged and residential care, military operational, boarding school, correctional facility, detention centres, Aboriginal rural and remote communities. **Contact Public Health for advice and to arrange testing in these settings.**

### Suspect cases for testing

Test for COVID-19 in the following, public health approval is NOT required:

Clinically compatible illness: Fever or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat) with or without fever, AND

- *proven* international travel (e.g. boarding pass, flight booking) or any travel on a cruise ship (e.g. cruise booking, itinerary) in the 14 days before illness onset, OR
- *proven* close contact in 14 days before illness onset (call local PHU to confirm) with a confirmed case of COVID-19
- healthcare workers, aged or residential care workers, and disability support workers.

Testing for the above patients is ONLY to be done at COVID clinics in metropolitan Perth. In country areas testing can only be undertaken by hospitals, COVID clinics, health centres and remote health clinics operated by the WA Country Health Service, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or RFDS.

### High risk settings

Suspect COVID in high risk settings; approval to test from a **public health Physician; a PHP CODE will be given that must be written on the pathology form:**

- Where there are *two or more* people with illness clinically compatible with COVID-19 (as defined above), in aged care and other residential care facilities, military operational settings, boarding schools, correctional facilities, detention centres, Aboriginal rural and remote communities, and settings where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred.
- Individuals with illness clinically compatible with COVID-19 (as defined above) in a geographically localized area with elevated risk of community transmission, as defined by public health.

### Hospitalised patients

Test for COVID-19 in the following; public health approval is NOT required for testing:

- Hospitalised patients with fever (38°C or higher) AND acute respiratory infection of an unknown cause

### Testing

The reason for testing or PHP Code must be documented on the pathology request form. Do not test asymptomatic patients, and do not undertake testing for 'clearance' or return to work purposes. Self-collection is NOT advised. Patients tested for COVID-19 need to remain isolated until result known.

**Call Public Health regarding testing for ALL high-risk settings.**

Perth Metro 9222 8588 / 1300 MDCWA (1300623292)	Kimberley 9194 1630	South West 9781 2359
Goldfields 9080 8200	Midwest 9956 1985	Wheatbelt 9690 1720
Great Southern 9842 7500	Pilbara 9174 1660	After hours/on call 9328 0553

### Reporting

**Notify suspected COVID-19 cases** by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the [notification form](#). Notifying by phone is not necessary.

Dr Clare Huppatz, Senior Medical Advisor

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE**