



Clinician alert #78 – all clinicians

Effective from 25 January 2022

New information

- There is a community outbreak of the COVID-19 Omicron variant with cases in Perth and the Southwest region.

Community Transmission of COVID-19 in Western Australia

- As of 8pm 24 January 2022, there are 81 COVID-19 cases associated with the current Omicron variant community outbreak in WA.
- These include 7 clusters in Perth's southern suburbs and the Southwest region, some with no known links to other cases.
- Masks are mandatory in the Perth, Peel and Southwest regions.

Assessing COVID-19 risk of patients presenting to health services

- All health services should assess patients and visitors for COVID-19 risk, considering:
 - COVID-19 status,
 - contact with a COVID-19 case,
 - COVID-19 symptoms, and
 - epidemiological risk factors; including contacts, travel, high risk workers e.g. quarantine hotels, international border staff, air and maritime crew, and health, aged or residential care workers with potential COVID-19 patient contact.
- Health services should implement appropriate transmission-based precautions.

Public health management of contacts

- The national [COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units](#) were updated on 14 January 2022 (version 6.4) with updated contact classification, quarantine and testing regimes.
- In WA, Public Health have **not** yet adopted the current national guidelines and will continue to undertake a risk assessment of each case. This includes continuing to quarantine close contacts for 14 days, regardless of vaccination status.
- Hospitals should continue to liaise with Public Health for advice on furloughing of healthcare workers.
- Regularly review the [HealthyWA](#) website for new exposure sites and follow public health advice.

Discharging a COVID-19 Case

- On discharge of a COVID-19 case from hospital, the hospital discharge team should notify the Public Health team on 1300 316 555 (8am-8pm Monday-Sunday). Discharges outside these hours can occur via email to ncovcontact@health.wa.gov.au.
- Refer to the [Hospital discharge guidelines for COVID-19 cases](#).

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