



Clinician Alert #10 Hospital Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Saturday 29th February 2020

NEW INFORMATION

Test for COVID-19 in people with a clinically compatible illness who have travelled to **Cambodia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea** and/or **Thailand** in the 14 days before onset of symptoms.

Suspected case:

Fever or acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever, AND

- travel to (including transit through) **mainland China** in the 14 days before the onset of illness, OR
- close or casual contact in 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Person under investigation:

- A clinically compatible illness AND
- travel to (excluding transit through an airport) **Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea** and/or **Thailand** in the 14 days before onset of illness.

Isolate patients until COVID-19 is confirmed or excluded as the cause of illness.

Testing

- Dry swabs for PCR testing: a nasopharyngeal swab AND an oropharyngeal (throat) swab placed in transport medium.
- Lower respiratory tract samples for PCR testing: sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, pleural fluid if obtainable.
- Serum "to store" for use when serology testing becomes available.

Send samples to your pathology laboratory with an urgent request for 'respiratory virus panel and SARS-CoV-2' with their travel/case contact history.

Infection control for suspected and confirmed cases

- **Routine care:** contact and droplet precautions.
- **Higher level care:** use contact and airborne precautions for aerosol generating procedures, non-ICU patients requiring high level/high volume hands-on contact, and patients in ICU.
- **Prolonged care:** use powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs) for additional comfort and visibility when providing prolonged continuous care (e.g. more than an hour) in a patient's room.

Reporting:

Suspected COVID-19 is urgently notifiable by phone, call your local public health unit and speak to the Public Health Physician.

Metro 9222 8588 / 1300 MCDWA (1300623292)	Kimberley 9194 1630	South West 9781 2350
Goldfields 9080 8200	Midwest 9956 1985	Wheatbelt 9690 1720
Great Southern 9842 7500	Pilbara 9174 1660	After hours/on call 9328 0553

Refer to the [COVID-19 Series of National Guidelines](#) for more information.