

COVID-19: Updated Information for Community Pharmacists

Key Points

- People with flu-like symptoms, such as those seen with COVID-19, will often seek advice from their pharmacist.
- Please consider asking these people whether they have recently travelled internationally, or whether they have been in contact with people confirmed to have COVID-19.
- If the answer is YES, please ask them to put on a surgical mask and present to their GP or a Walk-in Centre. If they need urgent medical attention, they should be referred to The Canberra Hospital Emergency Department.
- P2 or N95 masks do not need to be worn by the patient or the pharmacist taking travel and symptom history.

What is the issue?

There is an outbreak of disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus that is called 'COVID-19'. The outbreak started in Hubei Province, China. There is evidence of community transmission throughout mainland China and in a number of other countries.

Who is at risk?

People with flu-like symptoms, such as those seen with COVID-19, will often seek advice from their pharmacist.

Consider COVID-19 in people who fit the following criteria:

- International travel in the 14 days before the onset of illness.
- OR**
- Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the 14 days before illness onset.

What actions do I take for a patient that meets these criteria?

- Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask and request they avoid contact with others.
- Ask your patient to present to their GP. The patient should call ahead to their GP and tell them about their symptoms and travel history.
- If they are unable to see their GP they can attend a designated Respiratory Assessment Clinic. Staff at these clinics will assess, and test for COVID-19 if required. It is not necessary to call ahead to the Respiratory Assessment Clinics.

- The ACT Respiratory Assessment Clinics are located at:
 - The **Weston Creek Walk-in Centre** (24 Parkinson St, Weston). Open 7:30 am – 10:00 pm daily, including public holidays.
 - The **Drive Through Respiratory Assessment Clinic** at Exhibition Park in Canberra (Flemington Rd & Northbourne Ave, Mitchell). Open 9:30 am – 6:00 pm daily. Patients must be driving or a passenger in a registered motor vehicle or motorbike to attend this clinic. It cannot be accessed from public transport or on foot.
- If a patient needs urgent medical attention, they should be referred to the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department. Please call ahead to the Emergency Department and/or inform paramedics about the patient's symptoms and travel or contact history.
- P2 or N95 masks do not need to be worn by the patient or the pharmacist taking a travel and symptom history.
- For further information, refer to the [ACT Health website](#).
- For additional queries, please contact the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) at ACT Health by calling (02) 5124 9213 during business hours or paging (02) 9962 4155 after hours.

More information

<https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/information-about-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts>

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus>

Dr Vanessa Johnston

For Dr Kerry Coleman
ACT Chief Health Officer

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