

NEW INFORMATION

All members of the community with documented fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) **AND** acute respiratory infection may be tested for COVID-19 (where another diagnosis is not more likely).

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

Public Health approval is NOT required for patients that meet the criteria.

Testing criteria in Western Australia

All people: *Consider testing**

- Person with documented fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) **AND** acute respiratory infection.

*where an alternative diagnosis is not more likely.

High risk people: *Test*

Clinical criteria: 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**

Epidemiological criteria:

- international or domestic travel (including cruise ships) in the 14 days before illness onset, **OR**
- close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in 14 days before illness onset, **OR**
- healthcare workers, aged or residential care workers, disability support workers, and police officers (proof is required e.g. badge, workplace ID or AHPRA card).

Testing for the above patients **ONLY** to be done at COVID clinics in metropolitan Perth; young children can be tested in Perth Childrens Hospital and/or EDs. 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. All hospitalised patients to be tested in hospital.

High risk settings: *Test*

Where there are *two or more* people with plausibly linked, clinically compatible illness (as defined above for 'High risk people'), 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. Testing for this category in Metro Perth can be conducted either at a COVID clinic, a GP in an aged care facility if they have correct equipment/PPE, or by domiciliary collection via the patient's usual pathology provider. For regional patients, discuss the decision to test with the local Public Health Unit, who can assist to arrange testing. All hospitalised patients to be tested in hospital.

Testing

- Test using a single swab for oropharyngeal then either nasal (if using rigid shaft swab) or nasopharyngeal (if using flexible shaft) sampling. Self-collection is NOT advised. Instructions for specimen collection are on the [PathWest website](#).
- The reason for testing must be documented on the pathology request form.
- Do not test asymptomatic patients or undertake testing for 'clearance' or return to work purposes.
- Patients tested for COVID-19 need to remain isolated until instructed otherwise.

Public Health Unit contact details			
Perth Metro 9222 8588 / 1300 MCDCWA (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.

Guide to COVID-19 testing in Western Australia (Public Health approval is NOT required)

PATIENT GROUPS	CRITERIA	WHERE TO TEST FOR COVID-19	
		METRO	REGIONS
All people	Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) AND acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat). Consider testing patients where an alternative diagnosis is not more likely.	COVID Clinics Hospitalised patients to be tested in hospital. If a COVID Clinic is unable to test a young child or is not an appropriate setting, young children can be tested at Perth Childrens Hospital and/or hospital Emergency Departments (EDs).	Hospitals, COVID clinics, health centres and remote health clinics operated by the WA Country Health Service, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or RFDS. Hospitalised patients to be tested in hospital.
High risk people	Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat). AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> international or domestic travel (incl. cruise ships) OR close contact with confirmed COVID-19 case, OR health care worker, aged / residential care worker, disability support worker, or police officer. 		If a young child is unable to be tested in the above locations, discuss with the local Public Health Unit.
High risk settings	Two or more people with plausibly linked clinically compatible illness (as defined above for 'High risk people'), in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aged care and other residential care facilities military settings boarding schools correctional facilities detention centres Aboriginal rural and remote communities, OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> settings where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID Clinics, OR domiciliary collection via the patient's usual pathology provider in Metro, OR GP in Aged Care Facility if they have correct equipment and PPE, OR discuss with the Perth Metro PHU if unable to arrange either of the above. Hospitalised patients to be tested in hospital.	Hospitals, COVID clinics, health centres and remote health clinics operated by the WA Country Health Service, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or RFDS. If assistance is required to arrange testing, discuss with the local Public Health Unit. Hospitalised patients to be tested in hospital.