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|  Tasmanian Government | THIS IS AN ALERT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALL DOCTORS IN THIS PRACTICE | | |
| | Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit | | |
| 28 April 2020 | No. of pages (incl. this page): 1 | Phone: 1800 671 738 | Fax: 6173 0821 |

COVID-19 Update No. 43

This alert updates the 27 April 2020 COVID-19 ALERT.

Testing

- **Statewide, please test or refer for testing ALL patients with ANY respiratory symptoms (even mild), including rhinorrhoea, fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.**
- **There is increased capacity for testing in the North and South. Please refer for testing patients with any symptoms. This is a very important part of our community surveillance.**
- For patients in the North West (or who have been in the NW in the last 14 days), close contacts of known cases, health/residential care workers, people living in residential facilities and others at moderate to very high risk (see the GP Info Sheet, V15), refer to THS Respiratory Clinics for testing, for timeliness of results.

- The North-West remains a designated localised area with risk of community transmission.
- As at 6:00 pm 27 April 2020, there have been 214 cases confirmed in Tasmania (142 in the NW) and 11 deaths (10 in the NW). There are 241 close contacts in quarantine being monitored, of which 147 are staff of health and aged care facilities in the NW.
- Please continue to provide negative test results to patients you test or refer for testing.
- The Australian Government COVIDSafe app has been launched to support rapid contact tracing. For more information, go to www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app

What to do:

- Use the **COVID-19 GP Info Sheet V15** when assessing and managing patients with symptoms of COVID-19.

Further information:

- For Tasmania: www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au and www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/facts/cases-and-testing-updates
- For referral pathways/forms and general practice preparedness: [Tasmanian HealthPathways](#)

Table 1: COVID-19 Risk Matrix

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| Clinical symptoms | | Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$), history of fever (eg night sweats, chills) or any symptoms of acute respiratory infection (eg runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat). |
| Epidemiological criteria | Very high risk | Any patient with any clinical symptoms who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has had close contact with a confirmed case in the 14 days before illness onset • travelled interstate (or overseas) in the 14 days before illness onset. |
| | High risk | Any patient with clinical symptoms who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are in any of the following settings where there are two or more plausibly-linked people with illness meeting the clinical criteria for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aged care and other residential care facilities • group residential facilities: correctional facilities, boarding schools, detention centres and military group residential and other closed settings, such as Navy ships • Aboriginal rural and remote communities where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred (in consultation with Public Health Services [PHS]) • settings where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred, in consultation with PHS. 2. Lived or travelled through North West Tasmania in the 14 days before illness onset. |
| | Moderate risk | Any patient with clinical symptoms who are healthcare, aged care or residential care workers. |

Thank you for your ongoing support, Dr Julie Graham, Specialist Medical Advisor, Public Health Services.

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