

 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		
4 May 2020	No. of pages (incl. this page): 1	Phone: 1800 671 738	Fax: 6173 0821

## COVID-19 Update No. 47

This alert updates the 02 May 2020 COVID-19 ALERT.

- **Statewide, please test or refer for testing ALL patients with ANY respiratory symptoms (even mild), including rhinorrhea, fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.**
- **Despite there being no new cases in several days, please stay vigilant and test/refer for testing anyone with any symptoms.**
- **Testing options now include:**
  - THS Respiratory Clinics – see attached for locations.
  - GP-led Respiratory Clinics (Devonport, Launceston, St Helens) – see PHT pathways for information.
  - GP-collected swabs and referral through normal procedures – if appropriate PPE and sampling equipment is available.
  - Refer to **COVID-19 Update No. 46** (May 2) for residential aged care testing information.
- For high to very high-risk patients (see *GP Info Sheet v15*) please, for now and where feasible, continue to refer to THS Respiratory Clinics for testing, for timeliness of results.
- The CDNA Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) for COVID-19 has been updated here at [www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm](http://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm).

- 
- The North-West remains a designated localised area with risk of community transmission.
  - Please continue to provide negative test results to patients you test or refer for testing.

### What to do:

- Use the **COVID-19 GP Info Sheet v15** when assessing and managing patients with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Provide patients being tested with the updated **'I'm being tested. What do I need to know?'** fact sheet.

### Further information:

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

**Table 1: Current high to very high-risk patients in Tasmania (for more details, see the GP Info Sheet v15)**

<b>Very high risk</b>	1. Any patient with any clinical symptoms who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has had close contact with a confirmed case in the 14 days before illness onset.</li> <li>• travelled interstate in the 14 days before illness onset.</li> </ul>
<b>High risk</b>	Any patient with clinical symptoms who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lives in aged care/other residential care facilities or group residential facilities (e.g correctional facility, boarding schools) where there are two or more plausibly-linked people with clinical symptoms.</li> <li>2. Living in or who has travelled through North West Tasmania in the 14 days before illness onset.</li> </ol>

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