

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

## COVID-19 Update No. 49

This alert updates the 06 May 2020 COVID-19 ALERT.

- **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. Patients can be referred for testing via the options listed below.**
- Patients who meet epidemiological criteria for a suspect case should be referred through a THS Respiratory Clinic. These are patients who:
  1. Are healthcare, aged or residential care workers or staff with direct patient contact
  2. In the 14 days before illness onset:
    - had close contact with a confirmed or probable case
    - travelled internationally or interstate
    - travelled on a cruise ship as passengers or crew.
- **Testing options:**
  - THS Respiratory Clinics – see attached for locations.
  - GP-led Respiratory Clinics (Hobart, Devonport, Launceston, St Helens) – see attached for locations.
  - GP-collected swabs and referral to labs through normal procedures, if appropriate PPE and sampling equipment is available.
  - Refer to the back of the GP Info Sheet V17 for information about arranging testing in residential aged care facilities.
- Note: patients not eligible for Medicare will incur costs for testing except at THS Respiratory Clinics.

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- Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include loss of smell, loss of taste, muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting and loss of appetite. Clinical assessment of these patients is recommended before referring for testing.

### What to do

- Use the **updated COVID-19 GP Info Sheet v17** when assessing and managing patients with symptoms of COVID-19. This sheet now includes information about arranging testing in residential aged care facilities.
- Provide patients being tested with the ***'I'm being tested. What do I need to know?'*** fact sheet.
- Continue to provide negative test results to patients you test or refer for testing.

### 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](#)
- The CDNA National Guidelines (SoNG) for COVID-19 (last updated 5 May) is available 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).

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dr Julie Graham, Specialist Medical Advisor, Public Health Services.