Clinician alert #22 – all clinicians –
Effective from 9 April 2020 – (UPDATE IN RED BELOW – Clarification on testing of children)

New information
Any person with documented fever (≥38°C) OR recent history of fever OR acute respiratory symptoms may be tested for COVID-19.
Public Health approval is NOT required for patients who meet these criteria.

Testing criteria in Western Australia

All people: Consider testing where an alternative diagnosis is not more likely

Documented fever (≥38°C) OR recent history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills)

OR

acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

Clinical judgement should be exercised in testing decisions. Public Health approval is not required.

Metropolitan Perth: testing for adult patients ONLY to be done at COVID clinics; In addition to being tested at COVID clinics, young children can also be tested in Perth Children’s Hospital and/or EDs.

Regional WA: testing can 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.

Hospitalised patients who require testing can be tested in hospital.

Testing in high risk settings:
Test any person with a clinically compatible illness (as defined above), 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.

Metropolitan Perth: testing can be conducted either at a COVID clinic, by a GP in an aged care facility if they have correct equipment/PPE, or by domiciliary collection via the patient’s usual pathology provider.

Regional WA: testing can be conducted via the regional avenues listed above; if assistance is needed to arrange testing, contact the local Public Health Unit.

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.
• Do not undertake testing for ‘clearance’ or return to work purposes; (except for healthcare workers).
• Patients tested for COVID-19 need to remain isolated until instructed otherwise.

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.

Public Health Unit contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Health Unit</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perth Metro</td>
<td>9222 8588</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1300 MCDCWA (1300623292)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>9194 1630</td>
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<tr>
<td>South West</td>
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<td>Goldfields</td>
<td>9080 8200</td>
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<td>Midwest</td>
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<td>Great Southern</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9174 1660</td>
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<td>After hours/on call</td>
<td>9328 0553</td>
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</tbody>
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Dr Clare Huppatz, PHEOC Coordinator
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE

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