NEW INFORMATION

A high index of suspicion for COVID-19 is required for people with a clinically compatible illness and recent travel history on any cruise ship, including those that have only travelled between Australian ports.

Cruise ships
Cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed on the following cruise ships:
- Ruby Princess – docked in Sydney on 18 March
- Ovation of the Seas – docked in Sydney on 18 March
- Voyager of the Seas – docked in Sydney on 18 March
- Celebrity Solstice – docked in Sydney on 20 March

Passengers who were on these cruise ships are deemed to be close contacts of confirmed cases and need to be tested for COVID-19 if they develop fever OR acute respiratory infection.

A high index of suspicion for COVID-19 is required for people with a travel history on a cruise ship within the 14 days prior to commencement of respiratory symptoms or fever.

Suspect cases for testing
Testing must only be undertaken on people who meet the following testing criteria:

- Fever (≥38°C) 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
- proven international travel (e.g. boarding pass, flight booking) in the 14 days before illness onset, OR
- proven close contact in 14 days before illness onset (call local PHU to confirm) with a confirmed case of COVID-19, OR
- hospitalised patients (ICU/HDU) with severe bilateral pneumonia and no travel history OR
Any healthcare worker* with direct patient contact, who has a fever (≥38°C) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) AND an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat).

*includes those workers in aged care and disability support workers, working with vulnerable patients.

Please call Public Health if you require advice regarding testing for anyone who presents with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and recent travel history on a cruise ship.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Kimberley</th>
<th>South West</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9222 8588 / 1300 MCDCWA (1300623292)</td>
<td>9194 1630</td>
<td>9781 2359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldfields</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Wheatbelt</td>
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<td>9080 8200</td>
<td>9956 1985</td>
<td>9690 1720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Southern</td>
<td>Pilbara</td>
<td>After hours/on call</td>
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<tr>
<td>9842 7500</td>
<td>9174 1660</td>
<td>9328 0553</td>
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Reporting
Suspected COVID-19 is urgently notifiable to the Department of Health by completing the notification form either ONLINE or by printing out the notification form. Notifying by phone is not necessary.

Patients with questions regarding COVID-19 can be referred to the HealthyWA coronavirus website.

Dr Clare Huppatz, Senior Medical Advisor
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE