Clinic Alert #10 General Practitioners Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Saturday 29th February 2020

NEW INFORMATION

Test for COVID-19 in people with a clinically compatible illness who have travelled to Cambodia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and/or Thailand in the 14 days before onset of symptoms.

Suspected case:
Fever or acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever, AND
- travel to (including transit through) mainland China in the 14 days before the onset of illness, OR
- close or casual contact in 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Person under investigation:
- A clinically compatible illness AND
- travel to (excluding transit through an airport) Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and/or Thailand in the 14 days before onset of illness.

Advise patients who do not require inpatient care to self-isolate at home while awaiting results of COVID-19 testing.

Testing and infection control:
Patient
- Give the patient a surgical mask to put on and direct to a single room with the door closed.
- Patients with severe symptoms suggestive of pneumonia (breathing difficulty, or frequent, severe or productive cough) should be managed and tested in a hospital in a negative pressure isolation room where possible, phone ahead to the Emergency Department to advise.

Clinician
- Use standard, contact and droplet precautions: a disposable fluid resistant gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection while testing patients with mild symptoms.

Testing
- Dry swabs for PCR testing: a nasopharyngeal swab AND an oropharyngeal (throat) swab placed in transport medium.
- Serum “to store” for use when serology testing becomes available.

Send samples to any pathology laboratory with an urgent request for ‘respiratory virus panel and SARS-CoV-2’ with any travel/case contact history. Specimen collection is available at most collection centres and domiciliary collection may be possible. Call ahead for advice.

Reporting:
Suspected COVID-19 is urgently notifiable by phone. Call your local public health unit and speak to the Public Health Physician.

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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 2350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldfields</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Wheatbelt</td>
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<tr>
<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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<td>9842 7500</td>
<td>9174 1660</td>
<td>9328 0553</td>
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For up to date information refer to the WA Health COVID-19 website

Dr Revle Bangor-Jones, Senior Medical Advisor,
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL