**Clinic Alert #12 Hospital**

**COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)**

**NEW INFORMATION**

- Test for COVID-19 in patients with a clinically compatible illness who have travelled or transited through a higher (mainland China, Iran, Italy or South Korea) or moderate (Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand) risk country in the last 14 days.
- Healthcare workers and other staff with close patient contact who have returned from a higher risk country (mainland China, Iran, Italy or South Korea) should not work in a hospital or residential care setting for 14 days after leaving the higher risk country.

For an up to date list of countries visit:  

**Healthcare workers (HCWs) and other staff with close patient contact in hospitals & residential care settings:**

- who have returned from any higher risk country should not undertake work in a hospital or residential care setting, including aged care facility, for 14 days after leaving the higher risk country.
- who have returned from any moderate risk country should self-monitor for any symptoms for 14 days after leaving the moderate risk country, and self-isolate if symptomatic.

**Suspect case**

Fever or acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever, AND

- travel or transit through a country considered to pose a risk of transmission* in the 14 days before onset of illness, OR
- close or casual contact in 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

*Countries considered to pose a risk of transmission:*

- Higher risk: Mainland China, Iran, Italy, South Korea
- Moderate risk: Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand


**Isolate patients** suspected to have COVID-19 until results are available.

**Testing**

- Dry swabs for PCR testing: a nasopharyngeal swab AND an oropharyngeal (throat) swab placed in transport medium.
- Lower respiratory tract samples for PCR testing: sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, pleural fluid if obtainable.
- Serum “to store” for use when serology testing becomes available.

Send samples to your pathology laboratory with an urgent request for ‘respiratory virus panel and SARS-CoV-2’ with their travel/case contact history.

**Mobile collection service**

Commencing Tuesday 3rd March, PathWest will offer a mobile service for the collection of COVID-19 samples in the metropolitan area. The service will be provided by 4 staff based from locations across the metro area and will be coordinated centrally. When referring a patient, please email the request form to PW.SpecimenCollManagers@health.wa.gov.au and call 6457 7395 to arrange the collection. Fax number 9381 7594.

**Infection control for suspect and confirmed cases**

- **Routine care:** contact and droplet precautions.
- **Higher level care:** use contact and airborne precautions for aerosol generating procedures, non-ICU patients requiring high level/high volume hands-on contact, and patients in ICU.
- **Prolonged care:** use powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs) for additional comfort and visibility when providing prolonged continuous care (e.g. more than an hour) in a patient’s room.
**Reporting**

Suspected COVID-19 is urgently notifiable to the Department of Health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro</td>
<td>9222 8588 / 1300 MCDCWA (1300623292)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>9194 1630</td>
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<td>South West</td>
<td>9781 2350</td>
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<td>Goldfields</td>
<td>9080 8200</td>
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<td>Pilbara</td>
<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 Donna Mak, Senior Medical Advisor,
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE