



Clinician alert #56 – all clinicians

Effective from 24 April 2021

New information

- A case of COVID-19 has been reported in a man who had completed quarantine at the Mercure Hotel in Perth. He attended venues within WA whilst infectious prior to flying to Melbourne.
- Both a close and casual contact of this man in the WA community have also tested positive.
- Anyone who attended a location visited by a confirmed case at the specified dates and times listed on the HealthyWA website "[Public exposure sites](#)" should be tested and isolate until a negative result is obtained, or as otherwise directed by WA Health.
- Due to a recent COVID-19 case in an Auckland airport worker, anyone who has visited any of the locations listed on the [NZ Ministry of Health](#) website and develops any symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested and isolate until a negative result is obtained.

Lockdown in the Perth Metropolitan and Peel Regions

A 3-day lockdown is currently in place in the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions from 12.01am Saturday 24 April until 12.01am Tuesday 27 April. Refer to www.wa.gov.au for further information. Everyone is required to wear a mask when outside their residence during this period, including at workplaces. Further resources regarding mask use are available at the [HealthyWA website](#).

Triaging patients presenting to health services

All health services should continue to assess people's COVID-19 risk on presentation including:

- COVID-19 symptoms
- Attendance at a location visited by a confirmed case, listed on the [HealthyWA website](#)
- Travel history and occupation (especially work in quarantine hotels)
- Whether the person is currently in quarantine, e.g. as an identified close contact of a case.

Patients should be managed accordingly using appropriate infection control measures.

Clinicians are reminded to stay alert for potential COVID-19 infection in anyone who works in a high-risk setting (e.g. border workers, quarantine centre workers) where there is the potential to be exposed to COVID-19.

SARS-CoV-2 testing

Testing is recommended for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, even those with mild symptoms.

Anyone who attended a location visited by a confirmed case at the specified dates and times needs to be tested and isolate until they have their result, or as otherwise directed by WA Health.

Close contacts will be identified and contacted directly by PHEOC.

- Testing can occur at COVID clinics, emergency departments of regional hospitals, GP respiratory clinics and private pathology clinics. WA COVID clinic operation hours will be extended as part of the testing surge. Testing locations and times can be viewed [here](#).
- A GP referral form for testing at private pathology clinics is not required at this time, and testing is free. Patients should be advised to check the private pathology clinic websites for clinic locations and opening hours. Refer to [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia](#).

Reporting

Clinicians are encouraged to notify PHEOC on 1300 316 555 (93280553 A/H) if they strongly suspect a patient has COVID-19 or if they see an unwell patient who is a close contact of a case.

Dr Clare Huppatz

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