Medical Clearance of a Case
Information for Clinicians

People diagnosed with COVID-19 may be managed in hospital or in the community, as clinically indicated. The Public Health Operations team from the WA Department of Health will determine when a confirmed case is cleared of infection and no longer requires isolation for public health purposes, as per the Communicable Disease Network Australia COVID-19 Guidelines for public health units. The Public Health Operations team must be consulted for the clearance of all cases, whether they are in hospital or the community. A clearance certificate will be provided to the individual when the Public Health Operations team deem that they have met the criteria for clearance.

A person will be deemed to have cleared the COVID-19 infection based on meeting the following criteria:

Confirmed or probable cases with mild illness who did not require hospitalisation
- at least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms; and
- there has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 72 hours

Confirmed or probable cases with more severe illness requiring hospitalisation
- at least 10 days have passed since hospital discharge; and
- there has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 72 hours

Healthcare workers and aged care workers must meet all the following criteria:
- the person has been afebrile for the previous 48 hours;
- resolution of the acute illness for the previous 24 hours;
- be at least 7 days after the onset of the acute illness;
- PCR negative on at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected 24 hours apart after the acute illness has resolved—this will be reviewed as the pandemic evolves in Australia.

For cases being managed in the community, the Public Health Operations team will provide all cases with a clearance letter to confirm the date of release from isolation.

For cases who are being discharged from hospital, the Public Health Operations team need to be contacted at discharge on 08 6373 2222. They will then be able to continue surveillance of these people and provide a clearance certificate as appropriate.

For cases who are medically well for discharge from hospital but cannot be discharged due to other concerns (e.g. need for rehabilitation), clearance will occur in consultation with the Public Health Operations team contactable on 08 6373 2222, treating clinician and infection control staff at the hospital. To preserve personal protective equipment and negate the need for isolation, consideration should be given to applying the same clearance criteria for discharge as for ‘Healthcare workers and aged care workers’ above.

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This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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