



Clinician alert #25 – All clinicians

Effective from 13th May 2020

New information

- Pre-operative testing of asymptomatic patients requires approval by the Chief Health Officer.
- Clinicians should not order serology testing.

Testing criteria

All people: Consider testing where:

Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) **OR** recent history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source,
OR
acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

This is especially important for:

- anyone who lives or works in a high-risk setting (e.g. healthcare, residential facility)
- contacts of a confirmed case or who have returned from outside of WA in the last 14 days
- anyone admitted to hospital
- people who live in, or have visited, an area confirmed by public health as having an increased risk of community transmission.

Clinicians do not have to test where another clinical focus of infection or alternate explanation of the patient's illness is evident.

PCR testing remains the preferred test for diagnosing acute COVID-19 infection.

Asymptomatic testing should not be undertaken for return to work purposes or fit for work purposes unless approved by public health.

Contact public health on **6373 2222** to discuss any testing in a **previously cleared** COVID-19 case.

Indigenous status must be documented on test request forms. Refer to [How to identify Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients](#).

Isolation following testing

All people tested for COVID-19 must be advised to self-isolate until they have received their test result. Carers of a dependent who has been tested are not required to self-isolate whilst awaiting the result on the dependent person.

Refer to ['Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #4'](#) for further information.

Serology testing

Serology testing can be requested on hospital inpatients after discussion with the ID or clinical microbiology team. Serology testing for all other patients will be arranged by public health where a public health imperative exists.

Pre-operative testing of asymptomatic patients

Testing asymptomatic patients in the pre-operative setting is **only** permitted for aerodigestive procedures. This is defined in the [Approval to request COVID-19 testing on patients undergoing aerodigestive procedure](#). Risks can be mitigated by the appropriate use of PPE for airborne procedures, please see [here](#) for further information on appropriate PPE for clinical and non-clinical staff as well as for first responders.

Clearance of cases from infection

Refer to the [Medical Clearance of a Case factsheet](#) for information about case clearance.

Dr Clare Huppatz, PHEOC Coordinator
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE

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