



Clinician alert #26 – All clinicians

Effective from 23rd May 2020

New information

- All people with a fever of $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ without a known source can be considered for testing
- Asymptomatic testing can be undertaken for returned interstate or international travelers in mandatory quarantine
- Infectious disease specialists and clinical microbiologists can approve serology testing

Testing criteria

All people: Consider testing where:

Fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) **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 persons who have returned from outside of WA in the last 14 days
- anyone admitted to hospital

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

Contact public health on 63732222 to discuss testing in a **previously cleared COVID-19 case**.

Serology testing

Serology does NOT currently have a role for diagnosis during acute illness but has utility for the diagnosis of past SARS-CoV-2 infection. Serology tests will be arranged by public health where a public health imperative exists or completed upon approval from a clinical microbiologist or infectious disease specialist.

Isolation following testing

All people tested for suspected 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 #5’](#) for further information.

Testing of returned travellers in quarantine

WA Health has approved testing of asymptomatic returned travellers in quarantine as specified in the [Approval to request COVID-19 testing people isolated or quarantined](#). Specimens should be collected as close to the end of the quarantine period as possible, allowing enough time for results to be received. If a negative test result is received, the returned traveller may finish quarantine after 14-days. If a positive result is received, the returned traveller must self-isolate and will be contacted by public health with further advice.

Testing of asymptomatic patients

Testing asymptomatic patients is permitted in a number of settings with approval for these scenarios found [at https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/covid-19-testing-directions](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/covid-19-testing-directions)

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.

Clearance of cases from infection

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

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE

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