



# Clinician alert #44 – all clinicians

Effective from 1 February 2021

## New information

- A case of COVID-19 has been reported in a hotel security worker.
- Clinicians and health services must be on high alert for COVID-19.
- Anyone who attended a location visited by a confirmed case at the specified dates and times should be tested.
- Elective surgery and procedures for categories 2 and 3 will be suspended from Tuesday 2 February. Category 1 and urgent category 2 surgery will continue.
- No visitors will be allowed to hospitals or residential aged care and/or disability facilities, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## Lockdown in the Perth metropolitan, Peel and South West regions

A 5-day lockdown is currently in place in the Perth metropolitan, Peel and South West regions from 6pm Sunday 31 January 2021 to 6pm Friday 5 February 2021, in response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a hotel security worker. Refer to [www.wa.gov.au](http://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
- Whether the person is currently in quarantine, e.g. as an identified close contact of the 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. If the test is negative, they can leave isolation. If the test is positive, they will be contacted by a member of the public health team.

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. 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 the [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia](#).

## Reporting

Notify suspect COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [online](#) or by printing out the [notification form](#). Notifying by phone is not necessary.

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**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE – STRATEGY**