



Clinician alert #45 – all clinicians

Effective from 6 February 2021

New information

- Clinicians and health services must continue to be on high alert for COVID-19.
- Elective surgery will resume across the State.
- There are restrictions to visitors in residential aged care in the affected area (Perth and Peel).

Restrictions in the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions

- Restrictions for the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions are now in place until 12:01am on 14 February 2021. This includes restrictions on gatherings, events and venues, as well as travel restrictions in and out of the Perth and Peel regions.
- Everyone is required to wear a face mask when outside their residence during this period, including at workplaces, with some exceptions.
- Visitors to residential aged care facilities continue to be restricted. Refer to the individual facility's policy regarding any exceptions.
- Refer to www.wa.gov.au for further information on restrictions and face mask use.
- Resources regarding mask use are available at [HealthyWA](#).

Triaging patients presenting to health services

All health services should continue to assess people's COVID-19 risk on presentation, and clinicians are reminded to stay alert for potential COVID-19 infection especially in those who work in a high-risk setting (e.g. border workers, quarantine centre workers).

SARS-CoV-2 testing

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

It is recommended that patients who present to an emergency department and are subsequently found to meet testing criteria, are tested regardless of whether they are subsequently admitted or discharged.

Testing can occur at COVID clinics, emergency departments of public and 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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