



Update on coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019)

INFORMATION FOR WA HOSPITAL CLINICIANS

KEY POINTS

- Consider COVID-19 in patients who have travelled to (including transit through) mainland China in the 14 days before onset of illness with fever OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever.
- Consider testing for COVID-19 in people with a clinically compatible illness who have travelled to Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and/or Thailand in the 14 days before onset of symptoms.
- Use contact and droplet precautions for routine care of patients.
- Use contact and airborne precautions when performing aerosol generating procedures or for when caring for clinically ill patients requiring high level/high-volume hands-on contact.
- For up to date information refer to the [WA novel coronavirus](#) webpage.

This alert updates the criteria for assessment for COVID-19 and the personal protective equipment (PPE) required for managing patients in a hospital environment.

Patients meeting the following criteria are classified as a suspect case and should be discussed with a Public Health Physician prior to arranging testing for COVID-19:

Travel to (including transit through) mainland China in the 14 days before the onset of illness, OR close or casual contact in 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-2019 AND fever OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever.

Person under investigation:

- It is recommended that clinicians should consider testing people with a clinically compatible illness who have travelled to any of the following locations in the 14 days before onset of symptoms:
Hong Kong Singapore Thailand Indonesia Japan
- This list is based on the volume of travel between these places, Australia and China, and/or the current epidemiology of COVID-19; however, the risk of COVID-19 in these countries is currently thought to be low. Clinical and public health judgement should be applied.
- **The recommendation does not apply to passengers who have only been in transit through an airport in these countries.**
- If a clinician determines that a person under investigation should be tested then that person must be managed as a suspected case.

Recommendations for use of personal protective equipment during hospital care of people with COVID-19:

- Contact and droplet precautions for routine care.
- Contact and airborne precautions for aerosol generating procedures and care of clinically ill patients requiring high level/high volume hands-on contact in or outside ICU.
- The use of powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) may be considered for additional comfort and visibility when health care professionals are required to remain in a patient's room continuously for a long period (e.g. more than an hour).

Refer to the [COVID-19 Series of National Guidelines](#) for more information.

Call your local public health unit to discuss suspected COVID-19

Metro 9222 8588 / 1300 MCDWA (1300623292)	Kimberley 9194 1630	South West 9781 2350
Goldfields 9080 8200	Midwest 9956 1985	Wheatbelt 9690 1720
Great Southern 9842 7500	Pilbara 9174 1660	After hours/OnCall 9328 0553