



COVID-19 GP update

As at 10 March 2020

Who should be tested for COVID-19?

Patients who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

Fever

OR

Acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever

AND:

- who have returned from overseas travel within the last 14 days OR
- been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

If testing for COVID-19 is required:

- If the patient has mild to moderate symptoms, and you have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), assess the patient and conduct specimen collection.
- If the patient has mild to moderate symptoms and you are *unable* to test them, refer for testing to:
 - COVID Clinic
 - specimen collection centre (check most up to date list of PathWest specimen collection centres on the PathWest website)
 - domiciliary pathology service (for patients without transport)
 - emergency department (ED).
- If the patient has severe symptoms suggestive of pneumonia (breathing difficulty, or frequent, severe or productive cough) they should be managed and tested in a hospital in a negative pressure isolation room; phone ahead to the Emergency Department to advise.

Refer to [Clinical Alert updates for GPs](#) on WA Department of Health website.

Who doesn't require testing for COVID-19?

Any patient without fever or acute respiratory infection should not be tested for COVID-19.

Patients who are not symptomatic but have:

- been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should self-quarantine for 14 days following last contact
- been in casual contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should self-monitor for symptoms. These patients should be advised to stay away from vulnerable groups, for example nursing homes.
- returned from mainland China or Iran within the last 14 days should self-quarantine for 14 days from date of leaving
- left or transited through the republic of Korea on or after 5 March should self-quarantine for 14 days from date of leaving.

Communicating test results

GPs should advise any patient tested to remain in isolation until results are available. Doctors who order the test are responsible for providing negative results to patients.

Positive results

Positive results for COVID-19 will be communicated to patients by the Department of Health.

Patients who test positive for COVID-19 will be advised by the Department of Health to stay in home isolation unless they require hospitalisation. Contact tracing will be undertaken by the WA Department of Health.

GPs that have tested patients will also be advised of positive results by the Department of Health.

Negative results

Negative results for COVID-19 for tests conducted in COVID Clinics will be communicated by the Department of Health.

GPs who have tested patients for COVID-19 will be advised of negative results in the same way as they normally receive them.

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