



# Clinician alert #36 – all clinicians

Effective from 30 November 2020

## SARS-CoV-2 Testing

### **ALL PEOPLE WHO MEET THE TESTING CRITERIA SHOULD BE TESTED BY PCR**

The downward trend of SARS-CoV-2 testing rates in Western Australia is a cause for concern. The recent situation in South Australia has highlighted the importance of robust surveillance testing of all individuals who meet the testing criteria for SARS-CoV-2.

If your patient is tested for SARS-CoV-2, please ensure you inform them to stay at home and isolate until they receive their test result.

## Exemptions from isolation in WA

The following people do not need to isolate after testing, provided they do not have symptoms of COVID-19:

- People tested under the Presentation for Testing (Quarantine Centre Workers) Directions (No 2)
- People tested under the Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions (No 2)
- People tested as part of the DETECT borders program
- Carers of a dependent who has been tested, whilst waiting for the result of the dependent person.
- People who undergo serology testing.

## IgM and IgG antibody testing

The Chief Health Officer has approved COVID-19 IgM and IgG antibody testing in addition to COVID-19 PCR testing, for patients who are required to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test to meet the entry requirements of overseas governments. The Chief Health Officer approval letter can be found [here](#).

## Controlled Border for Western Australia

As per the [Controlled Border for Western Australia Directions](#) all interstate arrivals (excluding arrivals from South Australia) are now permitted to enter Western Australia with an approved G2G pass. Travellers from New South Wales and Victoria are required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival to WA.

As per the [South Australian Outbreak Response Direction \(No 2\)](#), travellers who have been in South Australia in the 14 days prior to their entry into Western Australia are only permitted to enter if they are an approved traveller or are subject to a specified arrangement. All travellers from South Australia are required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival to WA.

As per the [Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 9\)](#), travellers from South Australia must present for COVID-19 testing within 48 hours of their arrival. Travellers from South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria must present for COVID-19 testing on day 11 after their arrival.

## Transport, Freight and Logistics

As per the [Transport, Freight and Logistics Direction \(No 2\)](#), drivers who have been in a restricted location, have been in New Zealand and another Australian State or Territory, or have knowingly been in direct contact with a person who, in the 14 days prior to the direct contact, had been in a restricted location or a place outside of Australia, **will be required to undertake COVID-19 testing every 7 days.**

## Quarantine Centre Workers

As per the [Presentation for Testing \(Quarantine Centre Workers\) Directions \(No 2\)](#), cleaners and security guards who work at a quarantine centre, and police officers deployed to carry out an assigned shift at a quarantine centre, **are required to undertake COVID-19 testing every 7 days.**

Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE – STRATEGY**