



Positive Wastewater Detection Broome Township

Clinician alert: Kimberley Region Effective from 6 August 2021

Viral fragments of SARS-CoV-2 have been detected at a Broome wastewater treatment plant. This is an unexpected detection.

Unexpected wastewater detections can be due to an undetected case either in the community or that has travelled through the community; an unexpected detection can be due to a recently recovered case who is no longer infectious but still shedding the virus.

Public Health Response

Testing

- WA Health are encouraging people who are currently residing within the Broome township area to be tested if they are exhibiting any symptoms of SARS-CoV-2, even mild symptoms.
- Once tested, people should return to their usual home or accommodation and must remain there until a negative test result is received.
- Testing can occur at the following WA Health COVID clinics.
 - Broome Hospital: extended opening hours until 8pm Friday 6 August and 8am-8pm on Saturday 7 August and Sunday 8 August.

Please encourage your patients to be tested for SARS-CoV-2 if they are symptomatic.

Further information

An unexpected detection in the wastewater does not necessarily mean that there is a local case in the community. A detection is a trigger to increase testing of symptomatic people. Hospitals and healthcare workers do not need to change their usual COVID safe practices including PPE, but should remain vigilant for people with symptoms.

Additional information regarding the WA Health wastewater surveillance program, frequently asked questions and a list of recent results can be found at https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-wastewater-testing.

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