Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Clinician alert #66 – all clinicians

Effective from 15 September 2021

New information

- Close contact definitions for COVID-19 have been updated; these should be considered to inform local infection prevention and control planning.

Updated close contact definition

As per the COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units v4.8 the close contact definitions are as follows (new updates underlined):

- Primary close contact is a person who has:
  o had face-to-face contact with a confirmed case during their infectious period, or
  o shared a closed space with a confirmed case during their infectious period where there is reasonable risk of transmission based on a risk assessment performed by the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC).

- Secondary close contact (close contact of a primary close contact) is a person who has:
  o had face-to-face contact or shared a closed space in any setting with a primary close contact of a COVID-19 case, from 24 hours after the primary contact's exposure to the case.
  Note that the implementation of identification of secondary close contacts would be determined by the PHEOC.

Access to urgent dental care for people in quarantine or isolation

The on-call dentist should be contacted to triage requests for dental care during isolation or quarantine. Contact the on-call dentist via 13 COVID (13 268 43) and select the option for dental/medical/mental health support or direct via 0429 441 162.

Refer to the online resource Assistance for people in quarantine or isolation.

Triaging patients presenting to health services

Clinicians are reminded to stay alert for potential COVID-19 infection in anyone where there is the potential to be exposed to COVID-19 e.g. interstate or international travellers in quarantine, border workers, quarantine centre workers.

Patients should be managed accordingly using appropriate infection control measures.

Dr Revle Bangor-Jones
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE – STRATEGY