



# Clinician Alert #16 ALL Clinicians

## Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Sunday 22 March 2020

### NEW INFORMATION

A high index of suspicion for COVID-19 is required for people with a clinically compatible illness and recent travel history on any cruise ship, including those that have only travelled between Australian ports.

### Cruise ships

Cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed on the following cruise ships:

- Ruby Princess – docked in Sydney on 18 March
- Ovation of the Seas – docked in Sydney on 18 March
- Voyager of the Seas – docked in Sydney on 18 March
- Celebrity Solstice – docked in Sydney on 20 March

Passengers who were on these cruise ships are deemed to be close contacts of confirmed cases and need to be tested for COVID-19 if they develop fever OR acute respiratory infection.

A high index of suspicion for COVID-19 is required for people with a travel history on a cruise ship within the 14 days prior to commencement of respiratory symptoms or fever.

### Suspect cases for testing

Testing must only be undertaken on people who meet the following testing criteria:

- Fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat) with or without fever, AND
- *proven* international travel (e.g. boarding pass, flight booking) in the 14 days before illness onset, OR
  - *proven* close contact in 14 days before illness onset (call local PHU to confirm) with a confirmed case of COVID-19, OR
  - hospitalised patients (ICU/HDU) with severe bilateral pneumonia and no travel history OR

Any healthcare worker\* with direct patient contact, who has a fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) AND an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat).

\*includes those workers in aged care and disability support workers, working with vulnerable patients.

Please call Public Health if you require advice regarding testing for anyone who presents with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and recent travel history on a cruise ship.

Metro 9222 8588 / 1300 MDCDCWA (1300623292)	Kimberley 9194 1630	South West 9781 2359
Goldfields 9080 8200	Midwest 9956 1985	Wheatbelt 9690 1720
Great Southern 9842 7500	Pilbara 9174 1660	After hours/on call 9328 0553

### Reporting

**Suspected COVID-19 is urgently notifiable** to the Department of Health by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the [notification form](#). Notifying by phone is not necessary.

Patients with questions regarding COVID-19 can be referred to the [HealthyWA coronavirus website](#).

Dr Clare Huppatz, Senior Medical Advisor

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE**