



Update on novel coronavirus INFORMATION FOR WA CLINICIANS

KEY POINTS

- **Ongoing transmission of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV has now been confirmed for the province of Hubei.**
- **Remain alert for patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms who have travelled to **any part of the province of Hubei, including Wuhan**, within two weeks of onset of illness.**
- **Place a surgical mask on and isolate any patients meeting these criteria in a negative pressure room or single room as soon as they are identified.**
- **Urgently notify a WA Health Public Health Physician of any patients meeting these criteria by contacting your local PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT.**
- **Only after discussion with a Department of Health Public Health Physician, obtain a respiratory and blood sample and send urgently to PathWest.**

Suspect Case Definition:

- symptoms of fever (or history of fever) AND respiratory symptoms, AND
- travel to the province of Hubei¹, China OR contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus, within 14 days of symptom onset.

If you have a patient who meets these criteria:

- Place a surgical mask on the patient and undertake clinical assessment in a negative pressure room or a single room with the door closed as soon as they are identified
- For personal protection use standard plus contact plus droplet precautions: a disposable fluid resistant gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection while reviewing the patient.
- In addition, use airborne precautions, i.e. a P2/N95 mask and eye protection, when collecting specimens.
- Immediately notify the WA Department of Health and speak with a Public Health Physician.
- On advice of the Public Health Physician, obtain the following samples:
 - a nasopharyngeal swab OR nose and throat swabs (swab the nose and swab the throat separately) using dry swab or viral transport media swabs for PCR testing
 - lower tract sample if the lower tract is involved (sputum, endotracheal aspirate, bronchoscopy collected sample) for PCR testing
 - serum “to store” for use when serology testing becomes available.
- Send the samples to PathWest with an urgent request for ‘Respiratory virus panel and Novel coronavirus’ and specify the respiratory site and relevant clinical details.

NOTIFY URGENTLY: Call your local public health unit and speak to the Public Health Physician.

Metro 9222 8588 Or 1300 MDCDCWA (1300 623292)	Kimberley 9194 1630	South West 9781 2350
Goldfields 9080 8200	Midwest 9956 1985	Wheatbelt 9690 1720
Great Southern 9842 7500	Pilbara 9174 1660	After hours/Oncall 9328 0553

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¹ Areas at risk outside of Hubei Province is determined

by the Australian Government Dept of Health,
can be found on their [website](http://www.health.gov.au).