



Clinician alert #43 – all clinicians

Effective from 16 January 2021

New information

- Reminder: any person presenting to a health service should be assessed for COVID-19 risk on arrival.
- Updated advice regarding release from isolation for confirmed cases infected with a SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern.

Triage of patients presenting to health services

There continues to be a risk of COVID-19 in Australia, as seen through the outbreaks in the Eastern States. Health services are advised to maintain a heightened awareness of the risk of COVID-19.

All health services should continue to assess people's COVID-19 risk on presentation including:

- COVID-19 symptoms,
- recent travel history, and
- whether the person is currently in quarantine.

Patients should then manage patients accordingly using appropriate infection control measures.

Confirmed cases infected with a SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern

The [CDNA National guidelines for COVID-19](#) have been updated to provide guidance for release from isolation for confirmed cases infected with a SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern. The key elements are extension of the minimum period since the onset of symptoms or positive PCR to 14 days (instead of 10). Cases must have a respiratory specimen for SARS-CoV-2 by PCR taken at day 12-13 from symptom onset (or from the first positive PCR date for asymptomatic cases).

A PHEOC public health physician, in consultation with a microbiologist, will advise on release from isolation for any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in WA.

Refer to the updated [Release from isolation factsheet](#).

SARS-CoV-2 testing

Refer to the [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia](#).

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