

COVID-19 Public Health Alert

No. 3 / 5 March 2020

What's new

- Self-quarantine is required for people who have been in, or transited through, one of the following countries:
 - mainland China since 1 February 2020
 - Iran on or after 19 February 2020
 - South Korea from 9pm, 5 March 2020.
- Healthcare workers or residential aged care workers who come into **contact with patients in a hospital or residential care setting including aged care facilities**, who have been in, or transited through, the following countries should not attend their workplace for 14 days from the day they departed these countries (they do not have to self-quarantine).
 - Italy; or
 - South Korea (prior to 5 March 2020).

Testing

- Testing of any persons, including healthcare workers, with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 should be considered. The threshold for testing is very low.
- For a list of countries and their transmission risk, refer to:
www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-covid-19-countries.htm

Infection prevention and control

Persons tested for COVID-19 should be managed as a **suspect case** and be requested to **self-isolate** themselves until the results of testing are known. If results are positive, they will need to remain isolated. Contact the local public health unit for specific advice.

If results are negative and they are deemed to no longer be a suspect case, they do not require quarantine unless their travel history is from a country where 14-day self-quarantine is required (mainland China, Iran and South Korea).

When a person presents with possible COVID-19 infection, whether respiratory symptoms are present or not, they should immediately be:

- given a surgical mask to put on (ensuring it is put on correctly)
- placed in a single room with the door closed (a room from which the air does not circulate to other areas is preferred, if available).

GPs and practice staff should use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Standard, contact and droplet precautions are recommended for clinical care of suspect cases.

For more information on infection prevention and control guidelines, PPE and how to assess and manage patients with suspected COVID-19, visit

www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians

For the latest version of the CDNA National Guidelines for public health units, visit

www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm

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