

11 February 2020

Information for Primary Care Physicians for testing for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Please consider testing for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus if your patient satisfies the epidemiological and clinical criteria:

Your patient has returned in the last 14 days from an area with ongoing transmission for the 2019-nCoV (<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus>)

OR

has had close or casual contact in the last 14 days with someone with confirmed case

AND

has a compatible clinical syndrome (fever and/or respiratory symptoms)

Discussion with your Public Health Unit is no longer required, however, clinical judgement should be used to determine testing in patients who do not meet the epidemiological and clinical criteria.

Please Note: Testing of asymptomatic patients is not recommended.

All clinical specimens should be collected using appropriate PPE.

The current recommended specimens for collection for testing for the 2019-nCoV include:

1. Nasopharyngeal swabs x2 (orange flocced type swabs)
 - Respiratory virus PCR testing
 - 2019 Novel Coronavirus PCR testing
2. Serum (2019-nCoV antibody testing is currently not available but serum will be stored for future testing)
3. Sputum (MCS) and 2019-nCoV PCR if has productive cough

Please ensure that all request forms have a detailed **CLINICAL** and **TRAVEL HISTORY** including:

1. Countries visited in the last 14 days
2. Clinical symptoms (i.e. fever and/or respiratory symptoms)

For more up to date and detailed information on the 2019-nCoV please refer to the following sites:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

<http://disease-control.health.qld.gov.au/condition/837/2019-ncov>