

Information for Primary Care Physicians for testing for COVID-19.

If your patient satisfies the epidemiological and clinical criteria, they are classified as a suspect case:

Epidemiological criteria

Travel to (including transit through) mainland China in the 14 days before the onset of illness

OR

has had close or casual contact in the last 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-19

Clinical criteria

Fever

OR

acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever

Person under investigation

It is recommended that clinicians should consider testing people with a clinically compatible illness who travelled to any of the following countries in the 14 days before onset of symptoms:

- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Iran
- South Korea

This list is based on the volume of travel between those countries, Australia and China, and/or the current epidemiology of COVID-19; however, the risk of COVID-19 in these countries is currently thought to be low. Clinical and public health judgement should be applied. The recommendation does not apply to passengers who have only been in transit through an airport in these countries.

Note: If a clinician determines that a person under investigation should be tested then that person must be managed as a suspect case.

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 flocked 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>