



- Please immediately bring to the attention of all doctors -

Date: 15 April 2020

Contact telephone number: **1300 232 272 (24 hours/7 days)**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Update #17

SA Health will **broaden the testing criteria** for COVID-19 over the next two weeks to determine if there is previously undetected community transmission of COVID-19 in South Australia.

Testing recommendations for South Australia

People who meet the current epidemiological and clinical criteria for testing (see Public Health Alert dated 1 April 2020) can continue to be tested at COVID clinics and general practices.

In addition, SA Health is now recommending testing for:

- Any person with an **unexplained fever**

OR

- Any person with an **acute respiratory infection** (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, rhinorrhoea).

To be eligible for this broader testing, patients are required to have a clinical assessment from a medical practitioner or COVID clinic. Note that drive through testing centres do not provide clinical assessment.

Remind patients who are tested to remain in isolation until the test results are available. Persons who meet the criteria for quarantine (e.g. recent interstate or overseas travel, or contact of a known case) are required to remain in isolation until the period specified for that person is completed, irrespective of the test results.

Adelaide Airport cluster information

The SA Health COVID webpage Latest Updates (www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019) has detailed information for Qantas staff who have worked at the Adelaide Airport since 18 March, including requirements for quarantine and testing.

Health workers are reminded to:

- **Not work** whilst symptomatic with fever or an acute respiratory infection.
- **Seek testing** if symptoms compatible with COVID-19 develop.
- **Refer** to earlier Public Health Alert of 26 February 2020 for details of PPE, infection control and specimen collection www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/HealthAlerts
- **Send** specimens to SA Pathology. Request respiratory viruses including COVID-19.
- **Do not** send patients with suspected COVID-19 to a general pathology collection centre.
- **Do not test patients for 'medical clearance' certificates for schools or workplaces.**
- **See** the Australian Government Department for Health for further information <https://bit.ly/2QAK1JU>
- **Notify** suspected and confirmed cases **online:** <https://extapps2.sahealth.sa.gov.au/CDCB-Notify/>
- **Regularly visit** the SA Health website: for SA updates: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019
- For information on COVID-19 Clinics and Testing Centres <https://bit.ly/2J5OEaL>

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