# GP Assessment and management of patients with suspected COVID-19


## Does the patient meet the epidemiological AND clinical criteria? for COVID-19?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmed case</th>
<th>A person who tests positive to a validated specific SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test or has the virus identified by electron microscopy or viral culture.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probable case</td>
<td>A person, who has not been tested, with fever (≥38°C) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) AND who is a household contact of a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspect case</td>
<td>A person who meets the following epidemiological AND clinical criteria. Suspect cases should be isolated pending test results and notified to local public health unit². Clinical and public health judgement should be used to determine the need for testing in patients who do not meet the suspect case clinical or epidemiological criteria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Enhanced testing (Testing other than suspect cases)

A person with fever (≥38°C), history of fever (e.g. night sweats or chills) or acute respiratory infection, where no other clinical focus of infection or alternate explanation of the patient’s illness is evident and no epidemiological criteria, should be tested.

Clinical judgment is necessary to determine whether to isolate patients with acute respiratory infection who have no epidemiological risk factors pending test results and clinical resolution.

Public health unit notification is not required unless the patient subsequently becomes a confirmed case.

### Epidemiological criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the 14 days prior to illness onset:</th>
<th>Clinical criteria</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Close contact with a confirmed or probable case</td>
<td>Fever (≥38°C) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat)</td>
<td>Test (PCR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• International or interstate travel</td>
<td>Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include loss of smell, loss of taste, runny nose, muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting and loss of appetite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Passengers and crew who have travelled on a cruise ship</td>
<td>Clinical and public health judgement should be used to determine if individuals with sudden and unexplained onset of one or more of these other symptoms should be considered suspect cases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Healthcare, aged or residential care workers and staff with direct patient contact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• People who have lived in or travelled through a COVID-19 hotspot⁶</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clinical criteria

- Chief Health Officer Directions
- COVID-19 hotspots
- Information for people with a suspected case

### Fact sheets:

- Contact details for local public health units
- Contact and droplet precautions are recommended for routine care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

## Do not order testing for asymptomatic persons

In certain high-risk outbreak settings public health units may consider testing asymptomatic contacts to inform management of the outbreak.

### High risk settings

- Aged care and other residential care facilities
- Healthcare settings
- Military – group residential and other closed settings, such as Navy ships or living in accommodation
- Boarding schools and other group residential settings
- Educational settings where students are present
- Childcare centres
- Correctional facilities
- Detention centres
- Remote industrial sites with accommodation (e.g. mine sites)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rural and remote communities, in consultation with the local PHU
- Settings where COVID-19 outbreaks are occurring, in consultation with the local PHU

## 14 days quarantine is required for:

- close contacts of a confirmed or probable case
- all returned overseas travelers
- all persons arriving in Queensland from a COVID-19 hotspot⁶ or moving to Queensland from interstate unless they meet exemption criteria as per Chief Health Officer Directions⁷

If there is any uncertainty, discuss further with your local public health unit.³


⁴If patient does not require hospital care:
- Suspect cases should self-isolate pending COVID-19 test results. Provide the person with surgical mask and fact sheets on how to isolate and information for people with a suspected case¹
- If you have concerns about the ability of a patient to self-isolate, call your local public health unit¹
- It is the responsibility of the requesting clinician to inform the patients of their test results


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