

General Practice (GP) guideline for assessment and testing of patients who telephone the practice seeking care

Patients need access to care, assessment and testing with GPs who have access to recommended personal protective equipment (PPE). GPs can access additional PPE by contacting the Primary Health Network or SA Health via email: HealthPSCMSCOCustomerService@sa.gov.au SA Health COVID-19 information is available [here](#).

1. Practice staff to assess for COVID-19 risk when taking bookings:

Ask the patient if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 including: fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$), cough, sore throat or shortness of breath AND they meet COVID-19 risk factors as follows:

Due to the rapidly changing **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL CRITERIA**, refer to the following documents to see if the patient meets the probable and suspected case definitions.

Communicable Diseases Network Australia Series of National Guidelines (SoNG): www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm

Current SA Health Public Health Alert: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthalerts

NO

YES

Not suspected of COVID-19

Continue usual practice and procedures to book patient

SEVERE

Patient suspected of COVID-19

GP to **TRIAGE** the patient based on severity of symptoms. Consider Telehealth consultation.

NOT SEVERE

Advise patient to present to emergency department (ED) &/ or phone 000 for an ambulance

2. Car park Consultation

- GP practices that have access to PPE and car parking can ask the patient to come to the practice.
- Patient advised to call the practice on arrival and wait in their car in the carpark to be attended by practice staff as per GP advice.
- Patient to contact the practice to tell them they have arrived

3. CAR based assessment and testing

- GP to don PPE (surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear (goggles or face shield))
- GP to take additional medical history and conduct examination, as appropriate.
- Maintain distance of 1.5 metres except while conducting examination and swab.
- If mild symptoms, collect a combined throat/nose swab as per specimen collection factsheet located [here](#)

4. Patient advice / follow-up / test results

- Advise the patient to remain in home self-isolation for 14 days / GP to follow-up with the patient and provide test results.

NEGATIVE RESULT

- Inform the patient of results
- Assess the need for continuing self-isolation
 - Assess wellness and mental health well-being (phone/car based consult)
 - Check current advice as per the CDNA SoNG see http://bit.ly/CDNA_COVID-19

POSITIVE RESULT

- Inform the patient of the results
- Advise to continue self-isolation
 - Undertake a COVID-19 GP risk assessment
 - GP risk assessment team will contact the GP about management options
 - **Notify CDCB [online](#) or Ph. 1300 232 272**
- Note** - If patient is deteriorating arrange transfer to hospital