

**Note:** This is a summary guide only. Use clinical and public health judgement to determine the need for testing in patients who do not meet the epidemiological or clinical criteria. For latest advice and full recommendations for COVID-19 Refer to: [www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov](http://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov) and SA Health [Public Health Alerts](#).

### 1. Risk Assessment for COVID-19:

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

Communicable Diseases Network Australia Series of National Guidelines (SoNG): <https://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](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthalerts)

NO

YES

Manage patient as per usual assessment and management processes including infection control and personal protective equipment (PPE) practices.

If patient requires admission to hospital, follow usual policies and procedures (including infection control precautions and PPE) relevant to the admission assessment / diagnosis.

Monitor for signs/symptoms of COVID-19  
If signs and symptoms develop, reassess as per box 1.

### Concurrent recommended actions (probable, suspected or confirmed case)

Initiate GP or ED plan and actions - See boxes 3, 4 & 5.

### 3. Isolate patient:

- Place a surgical mask on the patient if it can be tolerated.
- Advise patient to use cough etiquette.
- Place patient in a single (dedicated) room, close the door, allocate dedicated bathroom.
- Restrict entry of non-essential staff and visitors. Keep a record of all staff and visitors who enter room.
- Use dedicated/disposable equipment.
- Avoid aerosol generating procedures (AGPs); if these must be performed use airborne precautions.

### 4. Communication:

**Notify** the Communicable Disease Control Branch (CDCB)  
Ph: **1300 232 272 (24 hours / 7 days)**

Inform as required (which may include):

- Infectious Diseases Physician.
- Nursing / hospital manager.
- Infection Control Unit / lead / nurse
- South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS) if transport is required.
- SA Pathology (if specimen taken).
- Others based upon local policy and procedures.

### 5. Infection Control

As per the Australian Government [advice](#): Standard & Transmission based precautions:

- Isolation of patient (see box 3)
- [Hand hygiene](#).
- [Environmental cleaning and disinfection](#)

#### Staff Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Patient has no or mild respiratory symptoms:** use a surgical mask, gown, gloves, and protective eyewear.
- Patient has severe respiratory symptoms e.g. pneumonia or if undertaking AGPs:** use a fit tested and fit checked P2/N95 respirator mask (or equivalent), gown, gloves and protective eyewear (goggles or face shield).

### Taking specimens:

Risk assess the patient and the need to take specimens. GPs, hospital doctors, SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) Extended Care Paramedics, nurses, SA Pathology domiciliary or specific COVID-19 clinics can take specimens. Swab both throat and nose using the same viral medium swab. Place in a biohazard bag and send to SA Pathology with request for respiratory viruses & SARS-CoV-2. Do not use the hospital pneumatic tube system for transport.

### Provide self-isolation advice

Fact sheet available from [SA Health Self-isolation and quarantine advice for COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) webpage](#)

### Decision to transfer the patient - infection control considerations:

The decision to transfer a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient to an appropriate referral hospital should be made in consultation with an Infectious Diseases Physician and other senior medical / nursing staff considering factors including the following:

- Patient clinical status/case definition. See [www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm](http://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm)
- Hospital capacity to provide transmission based precautions (droplet and or airborne) including negative pressure room/dedicated ensuite
- Staff training and competency in donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) all items of PPE
- Transport options, risk assess and communicate with SAAS or other recommended medical or private/public transport.
- Communication must occur between the transferring hospital or GP, and the receiving hospital, as well as SAAS.

SA Health referral hospitals for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients include Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH), Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) and the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH).

#### Additional information:

- Australian Government Department of Health web pages: [www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov](http://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov)
- SA Health Web Pages: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019)