

PATIENTS SEEKING COVID-19 TESTING FOR RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS

Any patient with respiratory symptoms, even if very mild, should be tested for COVID-19.

Patient (in person or via telehealth consult) presents with one or more of the following:

- ▶ fever OR chills with no alternative illness that explains these symptoms
- ▶ an acute respiratory infection e.g (cough, sore throat, runny nose or shortness of breath)
- ▶ unexplained loss of taste or smell
- ▶ new onset of other clinical symptoms compatible with COVID-19 (headache, myalgia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea) AND are close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have returned from overseas or interstate in the past 14 days.

Clinic has adequate PPE

If possible:

- ▶ Separate room for URTI patients with infection control cleaning precautions
- ▶ Limit amount of people in the waiting room
- ▶ Ensure 1.5m between people in waiting room
- ▶ Offer carpark swabs

Order Resp Viral PCR & SARS-CoV-2 PCR.

Note on the pathology request form the symptom profile and if the patient is in a risk group.

Swab patient, using the same swab for a nasal and oral swab.

Put swab into two pathology bags.

Advise patient to remain in isolation until test results are available, and to stay home if still symptomatic following test result.

Persons who meet the criteria for quarantine are required to remain in isolation until the period specified for that person is completed, irrespective of the test results.

Refer patients to the SA Health website for information about self-isolation.

Notify suspected and confirmed cases online:
<https://extapps2.sahealth.sa.gov.au/CDCB-Notify>

Clinic does not has adequate PPE

If possible:

- ▶ Separate room for URTI patients with infection control cleaning precautions
- ▶ Limit amount of people in the waiting room
- ▶ Ensure 1.5m between people in waiting room

Refer/direct patient to:

- ▶ **Drive-through testing** – ‘specimen collection request form’ required
- ▶ **Home (domiciliary) testing** – ‘specimen collection request form’ required
- ▶ **COVID-19 testing clinics** – ensure GP’s name is on the request form. Regional clinics may require patients to make an appointment or obtain a GP referral before attending these clinics.
- ▶ **Respiratory clinics** – by appointment only

DO NOT:

- ▶ Send patients with suspected COVID-19 to a general pathology collection centre.
- ▶ Test patients for ‘medical clearance’ certificates for schools or workplaces.

Refer to SA Health’s COVID-19 Information for Health Professionals page for further information on PPE, infection control and specimen collection (including testing centres): sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019