



Clinician alert #74 – all clinicians

Effective from 14 December 2021

New information

- There have been increasing COVID-19 cases and wastewater detections in interstate towns and remote communities near the Western Australian (WA) border.
- South Australia Health have detected COVID-19 in wastewater at Indulkana in the APY Lands in the state's far north-west. Repeat testing is underway.
- WA Health will be commencing wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 in selected communities in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

COVID-19 in NT and SA

- Increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases are being detected in towns and communities near the Western Australian (WA) border.
- 16 cases linked to the current outbreak in Katherine were detected on 13 December 2021, with further cases to be expected.
- There have also been SARS-CoV-2 wastewater detections in several remote communities proximate to the WA border.
- This presents a risk to Western Australia's border communities.

Testing and vaccination

- Given increasing cases in border towns and communities, increased testing and vaccination is required to detect early cases and prevent severe disease and death from COVID-19.
- Clinicians are reminded to:
 - Facilitate testing for all people who meet the [clinical testing criteria](#) (even if symptoms are mild) by PCR, regardless of vaccination status
 - Encourage COVID-19 vaccination for eligible people 12 years and over

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