



# Kimberley Regional Alert #2

## All Clinicians

### COVID-19 cluster in the Kimberley

A cluster of COVID-19 cases has been identified in Broome in the Kimberley, WA. Clinicians are advised to have a lower threshold for testing for COVID-19 in Broome due to limited local transmission. A lower threshold for testing for COVID-19 is also being advised for Halls Creek as a precautionary measure, following identification of a case in Halls Creek.

### Testing advice for Broome and Halls Creek

Test for COVID-19 in **any person (Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal)**:

- in the 14 days prior to illness onset lived in or travelled through Broome or Halls Creek  
AND
- Fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) **OR** acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat)

Testing can be undertaken at hospitals, the Broome COVID clinic, health centres and remote health clinics operated by the WA Country Health Service, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or RFDS. Test by obtaining an oropharyngeal (throat) swab then either a nasal or nasopharyngeal swab (use a single swab for both sites).

### Testing advice for the remainder of the Kimberley

Testing advice for the remainder of the Kimberley remains the same as for WA, as per the latest clinician alert; this includes a request for clinicians to consider testing any person, where an alternative diagnosis is not more likely:

- with documented fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **OR** recent history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills)  
**OR**
- acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

Clinical judgement should be exercised in testing decisions. Public Health approval is not required.

See the latest Clinician Alert here: [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus/COVID-19-clinical-alerts](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID-19-clinical-alerts)

### Call Public Health if you require guidance on testing:

Kimberley PHU (08) 9194 1630	After hours/on call (08) 9328 0553
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### Reporting

**Notify suspected COVID-19 cases** by completing the notification form either [online](#) or by printing out the [notification form](#). Notifying by phone is not necessary.

Dr Clare Huppatz, PHEOC Coordinator

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE**

**Last updated 9 April**

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