CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER APPROVAL TO REQUEST COVID-19 TESTING IN RELATION TO REPATRIATION OF MAURITIAN EVACUEES


On 23 March 2020, the Minister for Health declared a public health state of emergency with effect from 1.30 p.m. on 23 March 2020 in respect of COVID-19 pursuant to section 167 of the Public Health Act 2016 (WA) ("PH Act"). The public health state of emergency applies to the State of Western Australia.

On 21 April 2020 pursuant to section 174(2) of the PH Act, the COVID-19 TESTING DIRECTIONS ("Directions") were issued, setting out amongst other things when a person falls within the testing requirements before a test can be requested in relation to COVID-19, as well as who is permitted to carry out that sort of test.

Pursuant to those Directions, as Chief Health Officer, I may give approval in writing to a medical practitioner or other person (or a class of medical practitioners, or of other persons, or of medical practitioners and other persons) to request a test, whether given unconditionally or subject to terms or conditions.

Pursuant to the Directions I HEREBY GIVE APPROVAL to persons duly and properly engaged to collect specimens at WA State COVID testing clinics to request a COVID-19 test as an approved requester, in respect of any person that provides to the approved requester a letter from the Consulate of the Republic of Mauritius (Perth) confirming:

(a) the name and passport number of the person;
(b) the person is a citizen of Mauritius; and
(c) the person is booked to return to Mauritius on a special Air Mauritius repatriation flight;

whether the person falls within the testing requirements contained in the Directions or not, provided that:

i. the approved requester is reasonably satisfied that the person to be tested is the person identified in the letter above; and

ii. the approved requester is requesting a PCR based COVID-19 test.

Testing is to occur in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this approval. Otherwise, the existing testing requirements at this time apply, namely that a test should only be requested if a person has any one or more of; a fever of at least 38 degrees; OR, a recent history of fever; OR acute respiratory symptoms.

Dr Andrew Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER
29 May 2020