CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER APPROVAL TO CONDUCT COVID-19 TESTING ON PEOPLE RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT FROM INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020. 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) ("Act"). The public health state of emergency applies to the State of Western Australia.

On the 21 April pursuant to section 174(2) of the Act, the COVID-19 TESTING DIRECTIONS ("Directions") were issued, setting out 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.

I HEREBY GIVE APPROVAL to medical practitioners to request a COVID-19 test as an approved requester, in respect of any patient who is:

(a) a resident of either Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Indian Ocean Territories);
(b) at that point in time, an exempt traveller for the purposes of the Quarantine (Closing the Border) Directions dated 5 April 2020, paragraph 27(o);
(c) remaining in Western Australia for only as long as is reasonably required to receive urgent and essential medical treatment; and
(d) is about to undergo that medical treatment.

Testing is to occur in accordance with any 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 patient 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

13 May 2020