CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER APPROVAL TO REQUEST COVID-19 TESTING AND AUTHORISATION TO INFORM IN RELATION TO COVID-19 DETECT SNAPSHOT PROGRAM


On 15 March 2020, the Minister for Emergency Services declared a state of emergency with effect from 12 a.m. on 16 March 2020 in respect of the pandemic caused by COVID-19 pursuant to section 56 of the Emergency Management Act 2005 (WA) ("EM Act"). The state of emergency applies to the State of Western Australia.

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 ("Testing 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 Testing 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.

On 9 May 2020 pursuant to sections 67, 70 and 72A of the EM Act, the QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION (UNDIAGNOSED) DIRECTIONS ("Isolation Directions") were issued, setting out, amongst other things, that a person who is tested for COVID-19 must isolate until the person is informed of their test result, unless the person is informed that they do not have to isolate.

Pursuant to those Isolation Directions, as Chief Health Officer, I may authorise any person as a responsible officer to be the relevant officer to inform a person who is tested that they do not need to isolate.

The WA Department of Health is conducting the DETECT Snapshot program which will test people from identified groups in the community who show no symptoms of COVID-19 for the virus to get a better understanding of our levels of community transmission.
As Chief Health Officer, I will approve and cause to be published certain facilities and sites which are permitted to operate as sample collection sites for the purposes of the DETECT Snapshot program ("Approved Site").

Pursuant to the Testing Directions I HEREBY GIVE APPROVAL to persons duly and properly engaged to collect specimens at an Approved Site to request a COVID-19 test as an approved requester, in respect of any eligible person who presents to them and volunteers to participate in the DETECT Snapshot program and be tested, namely:

(a) **Healthcare workers**, being WA Health staff, employees in private hospitals, residential aged care facilities, general practices, pharmacies, the disability sector, or any worker employed by an organisation delivering health services;
(b) **WA Police staff**, being any employee of the WA Police Force;
(c) **Meat workers** being employees in an abattoir meat packing or in further processing such as smallgoods manufacture;
(d) **Retail workers** being employees involved in any function in the retail sector including but not limited to supermarkets, department stores and speciality stores;
(e) **Hospitality workers** being employees involved in the hospitality sector including but not limited to cafes, restaurants, pubs or hotels;
(f) **Transport workers** being employees of road, rail, aviation and maritime workers, including Public Transport Authority employees;
(g) **School staff** being employees involved in any function in a school setting (pre-kindergarten to year 12), including Department of Education employees; and
(h) **Tourism workers** being employees involved in the planning, booking and delivery of tourism activities.

provided that they do not display or report any symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

Pursuant to the Isolation Directions I HEREBY AUTHORISE those persons who have collected a specimen from a person above as part of the DETECT Snapshot program to inform that person that they do not need to isolate, provided that the person does not display or report any symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

These approvals and authorisations are given and have effect only between the dates of **Thursday 28 May 2020 to Wednesday 10 June 2020 (inclusive)**.

These approvals and authorisations replace the “Chief Health Officer Approval to Request COVID-19 Testing and Authorisation to Inform in relation to COVID-19 DETECT Snapshot Program” I previously issued on 27 May 2020. The purpose being to update the descriptions of the cohorts and to cater for the additional inclusion of Transport workers, School staff and Tourism workers as being eligible under the DETECT Snapshot program as and from Wednesday 3 June 2020.

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 person has any one or more of; a fever of at least 38 degrees; OR, a recent history of fever; OR acute respiratory symptoms.
Persons being tested outside of the DETECT Snapshot program must otherwise isolate until the person is informed of their test result, unless the person is otherwise informed by a relevant officer under the Isolation Directions.

Dr Andrew Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

02 June 2020