CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER APPROVAL TO REQUEST COVID-19 TESTING ON PATIENTS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF A NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST TO MEET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS OF OVERSEAS GOVERNMENTS


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 to a medical practitioner or other person (or class of medical practitioners, or of other persons, or of medical practitioners and other persons) to make a request, or to make requests, that a test be conducted, whether given unconditionally or subject to terms or conditions.

I HEREBY GIVE APPROVAL to medical practitioners to request a COVID-19 test in respect of a patient travelling to an overseas country for immigration or travel purposes whose government requires evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test result in respect of that patient ("Negative Result"), as a condition of entry by that patient to that country, subject to the following conditions:

1. written evidence of the requirement for a Negative Result as a condition of entry by that patient to that country must be provided by the patient to the medical practitioner prior to the test being requested;

2. the written evidence provided by the patient above must consist of an official statement from the government of that country (for example, an official notice or publication from the government of that country, consular document, visa conditions or official correspondence from the government of that country);

3. the written evidence confirms that it is a condition of entry by the patient to that country that the patient provide evidence to the government of that country of a Negative Result; and

4. the reason for the test must be noted by the medical practitioner on the pathology form requesting the test as "entry requirement by overseas country for immigration or travel".
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°C degrees; OR a recent history of fever; OR acute respiratory symptoms.

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

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