CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER APPROVAL TO REQUEST COVID-19 TESTING ON PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN TO VICTORIA WHO ARE REQUIRED TO BE TESTED UNDER THE PRESENTATION FOR TESTING DIRECTIONS


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 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.

On 9 July 2020 pursuant to sections 67 and 72A of the EM Act, the PRESENTATION FOR TESTING DIRECTIONS ("Presentation Directions") were issued, setting out, amongst other things, that a person to which the Presentation Directions apply (in particular those having recently been in the State of Victoria) must present to a COVID Clinic to be tested in accordance with the Presentation Directions.

Pursuant to the Testing Directions I HEREBY GIVE APPROVAL to persons duly and properly engaged to collect specimens at a COVID Clinic to request a COVID-19 test as an approved requester, in respect of any person that the requester is reasonably satisfied is a person to which the Presentation Directions apply.

For the purposes of this approval, a COVID Clinic is any premises set aside by the Western Australian Department of Health or a health service provider (as defined in the Health Services Act 2016 (WA)) for the purposes of testing persons for COVID-19 or the collection of specimens from persons for the purposes of COVID-19 testing.

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
10 July 2020