



CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER APPROVAL TO REQUEST COVID-19 TESTING ON PERSONS WHO ARE PRESENTING TO BE TESTED UNDER THE *OUTBREAK OUTSIDE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA RESPONSE DIRECTIONS (NO 15)*

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

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**"). On 22 September 2021, the Minister for Health declared a further public health state of emergency with effect from 4:25pm on 22 September 2021 in respect of COVID-19 pursuant to section 167 of the PH Act. The public health state of emergency applies to the State of Western Australia.

On 22 September 2021 pursuant to section 157(1)(k) and 190(1)(p) of the PH Act, the COVID-19 TESTING DIRECTIONS (NO 3) ("**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 as and from 20:32 hours 22 September 2021.

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 17 December 2021 pursuant to sections 67, 70 and 72A of the EM Act, the OUTBREAK OUTSIDE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA RESPONSE DIRECTIONS (NO 15) ("**OOWAR Directions (No.15)**") were issued, setting out, amongst other things, that certain persons to which the OOWAR Directions (No.15) apply must present to a COVID Clinic within the periods of time required by the OOWAR Directions (No.15). The OOWAR Directions (No.15) came into effect at 15:47 hours on 17 December 2021 ("**Effective Date**").

Pursuant to the Testing Directions I HEREBY GIVE APPROVAL applying as and from the Effective Date to medical practitioners and 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 has been reasonably satisfied is a person required to present to the COVID Clinic for the purposes of complying with any requirement to present for testing required or created by the OOWAR Directions (No.15).

For the purposes of this approval, a COVID Clinic is any premises:

- (a) 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:
- (i) in the Perth metropolitan area; or
 - (ii) at Albany Regional Hospital; or
 - (iii) at Broome Regional Hospital; or
 - (iv) at Bunbury Regional Hospital; or
 - (v) at Geraldton Regional Hospital; or
 - (vi) at Port Hedland Regional Hospital; or
 - (vii) at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital; or
 - (viii) at Kununurra Hospital; or
 - (ix) at an emergency department of a public hospital that is located outside of the Perth metropolitan area and is not specified above;

OR

- (b) that are otherwise approved by:
- (i) any other area or at any other place approved by the Chief Health Officer or the State Health Incident Controller; or
 - (ii) in any other area or at any other place approved by the State Emergency Coordinator or any person authorised by the State Emergency Coordinator for that purpose, or specified in a:
 - A. direction under the EM Act or PH Act whether the direction is given orally or in writing; or
 - B. instruction given for the purposes of the Presentation For Testing Directions No.36 which is not a direction, whether the instruction is given orally or in writing.

OR

- (c) as otherwise satisfies the definition of a COVID Clinic under paragraph 21 of the Presentation for Testing Directions No.36, or any corresponding paragraph in any direction that amends or replaces the Presentation for Testing Directions No.36.

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;

- (i) a fever of 37.5 degrees or above; or
- (ii) a recent history of fever; or
- (iii) symptoms of acute respiratory infection (including but without limitation, shortness of breath, a cough or sore throat); or
- (iv) loss of smell or loss of taste.



Dr Andrew Robertson

CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

21 December 2021