

CALHN Inpatient Areas / QEH ED Quick Reference Flow Chart COVID-19

RAH ED - refer to local flowchart

1. Assess epidemiological criteria within 14 days before onset of illness:

- Any international travel (New Zealand exempt) **OR**
- Any cruise ship (passengers or crew) travel **OR**
- Any interstate travel where South Australia has "restricted borders" **OR**
- Close or casual contact with a confirmed, probable or suspected case **OR**
- A person in quarantine / a person directed to self-isolate **OR**
- Healthcare worker / aged or residential care worker with direct patient contact/ epidemiological COVID risk eg looked after COVID-19 patients (CALHN staff : as per CALHN advice for HCWs) **OR**
- Lived in or travelled through a geographically localised area with elevated risk of community transmission (as defined by public health authorities / [SA Health public health alert](#)). Also known as higher risk areas or "hotspots"- links to all states can be found on the [travel to and from SA internet page](#) **OR**
- From a high risk setting as per [SA Health public health alert](#)

NO

If patient is asymptomatic, manage patient as per usual processes.

If patient is symptomatic assess patient for signs / symptoms of COVID-19 (or other viral illness). Clinical judgement should be used in assessing if hospitalised patients with non-specific signs of infection who do not meet clinical or epidemiological criteria should be considered suspect cases

YES

2. Identify signs/symptoms:

- Fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) or history of fever e.g. night sweats, chills) **OR**
 - acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat)* **OR**
 - Acute unexplained loss of smell or altered sense of taste **OR**
 - Persons with new onset of clinical symptoms* compatible with COVID-19
- Other clinical symptoms:** Fatigue, headache, runny nose, muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, loss of appetite, conjunctivitis, chest pain.

NO

Whilst hospitalised, Isolation (droplet precautions) is required for:

- Patients who meet the epidemiological criteria as per box 1.
 - Any inpatient with a pending Respiratory PCR
 - Household like contact of a person in self-quarantine where isolation criteria was not met : discuss with infection control
 - Droplet precautions to be maintained for patients requiring procedures
 - Staff PPE as per [SA Health PPE Matrix](#)
- Follow the [Risk Assessment for Bed Management - Inpatient Areas COVID-19 tool](#) available on the [CALHN COVID-19 internet](#)
- If D/C provide a surgical mask, advise to [self-isolate / quarantine](#) as per SA Health advice. If develops symptoms then advise to seek medical care.

YES

ACTIONS

Isolate:

Place a surgical mask on the patient and undertake assessment of severity of illness.

Room allocation, Staff PPE as per [SA Health COVID-19 PPE Matrix and infection Control Recommendations](#)

AND

Test:

Respiratory samples are not to be sent via Pneumatic Tube.

Hand deliver

Advise specimen reception on delivery: suspected COVID-19

Request **Respiratory viral PCR** including **COVID-19 AND document on the request form that you SUSPECT COVID-19+/- travel history**

Specimen collection (repeat testing may be required):

Upper respiratory tract specimen - [combined throat and deep nasal swab](#) (collect throat swab first)

Lower respiratory tract sample - sputum specimen if producing sputum

Call:

- SA Health CDCB: 1300 232 272 to notify if a suspected patient

If patient for admission:

- Infection Prevention Control Unit (SD 81327 or 0421899376) and advise patient name and UR (after hours leave a message)
- Arrange with admitting team and notify designated COVID-19 area. Follow the [Risk Assessment for Bed Management - Inpatient Areas COVID-19 tool](#)

- Advise after hours nurse coordinator & bed flow.
RAH: SD 41460, SD 81211
TQEH 0466 151 646 M-F 0730-1600hrs . AH: 0409 985282

If patient for discharge:

- If D/C: follow CDCB advice and provide surgical mask / information to patient. If private transport is not available then transport as per [Australian Government advice](#) or [SA Ambulance](#) if confirmed case.

If the hospital site has a COVID-19 clinic activated then mildly unwell patients presenting to ED may go to the clinic. ph 7074 2997.

Additional information

- Refer to [CDNA National Guideline](#) for casual and close contact definitions and management advice
- Refer to [OWI: 05409 OWI: 4193](#)
- [CALHN COVID-19 internet home page including Flowcharts and risk assessments](#)
- [SA Health COVID-19 PPE Matrix and infection Control Recommendations](#)
- [Australian Government coronavirus resources](#)
- [travel to and from SA internet page](#)
- Contact IPCU if further information is required regarding exempt areas.