

COVID-19 Public Health Alert

No. 1 / 26 February 2020

What's new

Iran, Italy and South Korea have been added to the list of countries for which clinicians should consider testing of people with a clinically compatible illness and history of travel.

Recommendations for testing for COVID-19

On 26 February 2020 the Commonwealth updated advice on testing of persons under investigation for coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

It is recommended that clinicians should consider testing people with a clinically compatible illness who travelled to any of the following countries (excluding transit through an airport in these countries) in the 14 days before onset of symptoms:

- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Italy
- Japan
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Thailand.

This list is based on the volume of travel between those countries, Australia and China, and/or the current epidemiology of COVID-19.

If returned travellers from these countries are tested, they should be managed as a suspect case and isolated until the results of testing are known.

Only people who have a travel history to mainland China require quarantine (not Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea or Thailand). Therefore, if results are negative and they are deemed to no longer be a suspect case, they do not require quarantine.

Clinical and public health judgement should be applied.

Note: if a clinician determines that a person under investigation should be tested then that person **must** be managed as a suspect case.

Heidi Carroll

Public Health Incident Controller, Communicable Diseases Branch Incident Management Team