

## Gold Coast Public Health Unit message: Testing Criteria

Gold Coast Public Health Unit (GCPHU) staff are appreciative of the support they are getting from local GPs. COVID 19 is now a request notifiable disease so any testing from both private and public laboratories are notified to GCPHU. Consequently, it is no longer essential that every case referred for testing is notified to the unit by clinicians.

In the Gold Coast area, the restrictions on testing have been relaxed considerably by the Chief Health Officer, so that other epidemiological criteria are no longer required. Refer to [Public Health Alert No. 9 released on 7 April 2020](#).

### ***Testing should be conducted for any individuals presenting with:***

Fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills)

**OR**

Acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

GCPHU is particularly interested in suspected cases who have had contact with any of the following groups and appreciate notification of these suspected cases

- Aged care and other residential aged care facilities
- Military - group residential and other closed settings, such as Navy ships or living in accommodation
- Boarding schools
- Correctional facilities
- Detention centres
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rural and remote communities, in consultation with the local Public Health Unit
- Settings where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred, in consultation with the local Public Health Unit eg. backpackers. **Please reassure this group that people without Medicare will NOT have to pay for testing if they attend a public hospital Fever Clinic**
- Healthcare workers, aged or residential care workers

Health care workers (HCW) requiring testing should advise Fever Clinic or private collection centres that they are a HCW and bring identification such as APHRA details if available. We are hoping to be able to prioritise these people. People who have been swabbed should remain in home isolation until their result is available. Most results take 24-48 hours. Ideally household contacts of a tested person should minimise outside contact until results are available.