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| COVID-19 assessment and streaming matrix |
| For emergency department, urgent care and respiratory assessment clinics |

**Version 23 updated 8 April 2020 – this matrix will be updated regularly, so always use the latest version available at** [**Health services and general practice - coronavirus disease (COVID-19)**](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-services-and-general-practitioners-coronavirus-disease-covid-19) **<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-services-and-general-practitioners-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>.**

1. Fever or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) ≥ 38 degrees **OR** acute respiratory infection symptoms (for example; shortness of breath, sore throat, cough)
2. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. Isolate: Patients returning from international travel must be quarantined and isolate for 14 days irrespective of the test result. See ‘Factsheets for patients’ on [Health services and general practice - coronavirus disease (COVID-19)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-services-and-general-practitioners-coronavirus-disease-covid-19) <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-services-and-general-practitioners-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
4. Cleaning and disinfection should be performed using a chlorine-based disinfectant at a minimum strength of 1000ppm or a TGA-listed disinfectant with claims against coronavirus or norovirus, following manufacturer’s instructions.
5. Public facing roles within homelessness support, child protection, the police force, firefighters who undertake emergency medical response, childcare and early childhood education and primary or secondary schools within the last 14 days
6. Aged care, disability and other residential care facilities; military operational settings; boarding schools; correctional facilities; detention centres; settings where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred, in consultation with the department.

| Patient criteria | Assessment criteria | Asymptomatic | No COVID-19 symptoms but requires medical care for other condition | Fever or acute respiratory infection1 not requiring admission | Fever or acute respiratory infection1  and requires admission | Severe acute respiratory infection1 (or undifferentiated case requires aerosol generating procedure + admission) |
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| **Travellers from overseas with onset of symptoms within 14 days of return**  **Cruise ship passengers and crew with onset of symptoms within 14 days of disembarkation** | **Sort/triage:** | Screening clinic | Triage to appropriate location | Screening clinic | Triage to appropriate location | Resuscitation space |
| **Staff PPE2:** | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | P2/N95 respirator (mask), gown, gloves, protective eyewear |
| **Patient PPE2:** | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene |
| **Swab:** | Not required | Not required | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **Disposition:** | Isolate3 | Admit for other illness (isolate) | Isolate3 | Admit | Admit |
| **Written advice:** | 14-day isolation3 | Not required | 14-day isolation3 | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| **Terminal clean:** | Routine discharge clean | Routine discharge clean | Disinfection solution4 | Disinfection solution4 | Disinfection solution4 |
| **Notification:** | Not required | Not required | All confirmed cases | All confirmed cases | All confirmed cases |
| **Close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases with onset of symptoms within 14 days of last contact** | **Sort/triage:** | Screening clinic | Triage to appropriate location | Screening clinic | Triage to cubicle | Resuscitation space |
| **Staff PPE:** | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | P2/N95 respirator (mask), gown, gloves, protective eyewear |
| **Patient PPE:** | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene |
| **Swab:** | Not required | Not required | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **Disposition:** | Home self-isolation3 | Admit for other illness (isolate) | Home self-isolation3 | Admit | Admit |
| **Written advice:** | 14-day self-isolation3 | Not required | 14-day self-isolation3 | Not required | Not required |
| **Clean:** | Routine discharge clean | Routine discharge clean | Disinfection solution4 | Disinfection solution4 | Disinfection solution4 |
| **Notification:** | Not required | Not required | All confirmed cases | All confirmed cases | All confirmed cases |
| **Special populations:**  **- Paid or unpaid healthcare or residential care or disability care worker**  **- Worked in public facing roles5 within the last 14 days**  **- Patients in high risk settings6**  **- Person 65 years or older**  **- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples**  **- Patients admitted to hospital where no other cause is identified** | **Sort/triage:** | Not required | Triage to appropriate location | Screening clinic | Triage to main emergency department | Resuscitation space |
| **Staff PPE:** | Surgical face mask and hand hygiene | Surgical face mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | P2/N95 respirator (mask), gown, gloves, protective eyewear |
| **Patient PPE:** | Not required | Not required | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene |
| **Swab:** | Not required | Not required | Yes – mark as urgent on request slip | Yes - mark as urgent on request slip | Yes – mark as urgent on request slip |
| **Disposition:** | Home | Admit for other illness | Home self-isolate until result 3 | Admit | Admit |
| **Written advice:** | Not required | Not required | 14-day self-isolation3 | Not required | Not required |
| **Clean:** | Routine discharge clean | Routine discharge clean | Disinfection solution 4 | Disinfection solution4 | Disinfection solution4 |
| **Notification:** | Not required | Not required | All confirmed cases | All confirmed cases | All confirmed cases |
| **Any other patients** | **Sort/triage:** | Not required | Triage to appropriate location | Screening clinic | Triage to main emergency department | Resuscitation space |
| **Staff PPE:** | Surgical face mask and hand hygiene | Surgical face mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | Surgical mask, gown, gloves, protective eyewear | P2/N95 respirator (mask), gown, gloves, protective eyewear |
| **Patient PPE:** | Not required | Not required | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene | Surgical mask and hand hygiene |
| **Swab:** | Not required | Not required | Not required | Test anyone with fever/ respiratory symptoms who is being admitted to hospital. Mark as urgent on request slip. | Test anyone with fever/respiratory symptoms who is being admitted to hospital. Mark as urgent on request slip. |
| **Disposition:** | Home | Admit for other illness | Home | Admit | Admit |
| **Written advice:** | Not required | Not required | Not required | Not required | Not required |
| **Clean:** | Routine discharge clean | Routine discharge clean | Routine discharge clean | Disinfection solution4 | Disinfection solution4 |
| **Notification:** | Not required | Not required | Not required | All confirmed cases | All confirmed cases |

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