

COVID-19: Updated Information for Community Pharmacists

Key Points

- **People with fever or respiratory symptoms, such as those seen with COVID-19, will often seek advice from their pharmacist.**
- **Anyone in the ACT with fever or acute respiratory infection can be tested for COVID-19.**
- **Patients can be referred for COVID-19 testing by their GP, or they can attend one of the ACT Respiratory Assessment Clinics. If they need urgent medical attention, they should be referred to a hospital Emergency Department.**
- **P2 or N95 masks do not need to be worn by patients or pharmacists.**

What is the issue?

There is an outbreak of disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus that is called 'COVID-19'. The outbreak started in Hubei Province, China and has led to a pandemic.

Who can be tested for COVID-19?

People with fever or respiratory symptoms, such as those seen with COVID-19, will often seek advice from their pharmacist.

Anyone in the ACT with fever or acute respiratory infection can be tested for COVID-19.

What actions do I take for a patient that meets these criteria?

- Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask and request that they return home and avoid contact with others.
- Try and keep a distance of at least 1.5 m between yourself and the person.
- Ask the patient to call their GP and request a consultation. Alternatively, patients can attend a Respiratory Assessment Clinic. Staff at these clinics will assess and test for COVID-19 if required. Details of the Respiratory Assessment Clinics in the ACT are provided at the end of this document.
- When travelling to the GP or Respiratory Assessment Clinic, they should travel using a private mode of transport. However, if public transport is their only option, they should wear a mask, avoid direct contact with others, cough/sneeze into their elbow, and wash their hands before and after they travel. The drive-through clinic at EPIC cannot be attended using public transport.
- If a patient needs urgent medical attention, they should be referred to the nearest hospital Emergency Department. Please call ahead to the Emergency Department and/or inform paramedics about the patient's symptoms.

- P2 or N95 masks do not need to be worn by the patient or the pharmacist.
- For additional queries, please contact the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) at ACT Health by calling (02) 5124 9213 during business hours or (02) 9962 4155 after hours.

More information

<https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/information-about-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts>

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus>

Dr Vanessa Johnston

For Dr Kerry Coleman
ACT Chief Health Officer

7 May 2020

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

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ACT Respiratory Assessment Clinics (no appointment required)

CENTRE	ADDRESS	MON – FRI	WEEKEND
Weston Creek Walk-in Centre	24 Parkinson St, Weston	0730–2200	0730–2200 Sat and Sun
EPIC Drive-Through Respiratory Assessment Clinic*	Flemington Rd and Northbourne Ave, Mitchell	0930–1800	0900–1800 Sat and Sun

GP Respiratory Clinics (appointment required)

CENTRE	ADDRESS	PHONE	MON – FRI	WEEKEND
Your GP@Crace	1/5 Barrata St, Crace	6109 0000	1300–1700	Closed
Lakeview Medical Practice Tuggeranong	1/216 Cowlshaw St, Greenway	6185 1986	0900–1300 1400–1800	Closed
Winnunga Nimmiyah Respiratory Clinic (First Nations people and existing clients only)	63 Boolimba Cres, Narrabundah	6284 6222	0930–1630	Closed

* Patients must be driving or a passenger in a registered motor vehicle or motorbike to attend the drive-through testing facility – no access from public transport or on foot.