Updated Testing for COVID-19 in NSW - from yesterday in case you missed it in the barrage of Telehealth info

Testing is recommended for a person with fever (≥38°C) OR history of fever (eg, night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- a close contact in the 14 days prior to illness onset with a confirmed case
- international travel in the 14 days prior to illness onset
- a cruise ship passenger or crew member who has travelled in the 14 days prior to illness onset
- a healthcare worker
- an aged care or other residential care worker
- in a geographically localised area with elevated risk of community transmission – see Locally acquired cases and clusters in NSW.

Testing is recommended for a person with fever (≥38°C) OR history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat in the following settings where there are two or more cases of illness clinically consistent with COVID-19:

- aged care and other residential care facilities
- military operational settings
- boarding schools
- correctional facilities
- detention centres
- Aboriginal 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 – see Locally acquired cases and clusters in NSW.

Testing is recommended for hospitalised patients with fever (≥38°C) and acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) of an unknown cause.

Note that testing for other pathogens is not routinely recommended unless it will influence clinical care.

Clinicians should use their clinical judgment to test patients outside these criteria.

People without symptoms should not be tested.