

# Important Public Health Alert

COVID-19

Date: 16 February 2020

## Testing update 16 February 2020

On 15 February 2020 the Commonwealth updated advice on testing of persons under investigation for coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

It is recommended that clinicians should consider also testing people with a clinically compatible illness who travelled to any of the following countries in the 14 days before onset of symptoms:

- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Singapore
- Thailand

This list is based on the volume of travel between those countries, Australia and China, and/or the current epidemiology of COVID-19; however, the risk of COVID-19 in these countries is currently thought to be low.

Clinical and public health judgement should be applied. The recommendation does not apply to passengers who have only been in transit through an airport in these countries.

**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

Executive Officer, Communicable Diseases Branch Incident Management Team