1. **Test for COVID-19 in patients who present with fever OR acute respiratory infection AND in the 14 days before the onset of illness have either:**
   - had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, OR
   - travelled to (including transit through) mainland China.

2. **Consider COVID-19 testing for patients who have travelled (excluding transit) in Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, South Korea or Iran in the 14 days before onset of symptoms.**

**Testing update:**
- Reports indicate that community transmission of COVID-19 is now occurring in several countries, including South Korea and Iran.
- Consider PCR testing people with a clinically compatible illness who have travelled to any of the following countries in the 14 days before onset of symptoms: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand. The risk for travellers returning from these countries is still considered to be lower than for mainland China.

If you decide to test someone who has been in one of the listed countries, ask them to wear a surgical mask and self-isolate until they have their COVID-19 test result.

**When a patient with symptoms who has been in China or in contact with a confirmed case presents:**
- Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask and place them in a separate room.
- Refer patients with severe symptoms (e.g. dyspnoea or severe cough) to your local emergency department for assessment and testing. Please call ahead.
- Use standard, contact and droplet transmission precautions when managing suspected cases and taking specimens: long sleeved gown, gloves, protective eyewear/face shield and a surgical mask.

**Arrange testing on patients suspected to have COVID-19 with mild to moderate symptoms:**
- Request COVID-19 PCR testing and PCR screening for routine respiratory pathogens. Make sure the patient’s travel history, symptoms and date of onset of symptoms are on the laboratory request form.
- Use standard, contact and droplet precautions when collecting specimens. Take two combined nose and throat viral swabs (or nasopharyngeal viral swabs) and lower respiratory specimen (sputum) if obtainable.
- Note that the practice remains responsible for informing the patient about their test results.
- If you are unable to arrange testing in your practice or pathology collection service, please refer the patient to another GP or the local emergency department. Advise the patient to call ahead.

**Advise patients to self-isolate while they wait for their COVID-19 test result:**
- Patients already in home quarantine must continue to self-isolate for 14 days since last travel or exposure even if the test is negative.

**Contact the Public Health Unit (1300 066 055):**
- If you have concerns about the ability of a patient to self-isolate, e.g. if they live in a residential facility.
- Immediately, if you are notified of a positive COVID-19 test result.

**Further information:**

Dr Christine Selvey  
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