

# Western Health COVID19 Covid Screening, Testing and Admission Process for Mental Health Patients QRG



COVID - 19

Be Safe -- Be Smart -- Be Kind

## Overview:

This QRG provides guidance to staff about the COVID19 screening, testing and Mental Health Inpatient Unit admission process for patients being accepted for care in the North-Western and Mercy Mental Health Inpatient Units.

## Applicability:

This procedure relates to clinical staff at Footscray, Sunshine and Williamstown Hospital Emergency Departments.

## Process:

### **Screening:**

All Mental Health patients should be screened against the COVID19 EMR initial screening tool. Early screening, within thirty minutes of arrival to the Emergency Department is recommended.

For patients who do not meet criteria for a COVID19 swab, no swab is required prior to admission to a Mental Health Inpatient Unit.

For patients identified via the COVID19 EMR initial screening tool as meeting Criteria for a COVID swab, a swab and a Fast Track COVID19 test should be ordered.

If screening, is unable to be completed, a COVID19 swab should be completed and Fast Track COVID19 testing ordered.

If the patient is not able to be screened or swabbed then they should be managed as a Suspected COVID19 patient.

### **Process for ordering Fast Track COVID swab:**

Follow the COVID19 PCR Testing Priority QRG - Fast Track COVID19 testing pathway:

1. Order COVID19 PCR via EMR (as per standard test);
2. Print the request;
3. Handwrite for 'Fast Track COVID19 Test' in 'Requested Tests' section;
4. Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label corresponding with request;
5. Place request form and specimen into specimen bag;
6. Hand deliver specimen to the onsite laboratory, stating 'this is for fast track testing' when handing over to laboratory staff. The sample must be handed to laboratory staff – DO NOT leave unattended on the bench.

Test turnaround time should be within the same day if the specimen arrives at Sunshine or Footscray Hospital laboratory before 12.30 pm (M-F) or 11.00 am (S/S)

Additional information about the process for ordering Fast Track COVID swab is available on the [Western Health COVID Microsite](#).

### **Mental health inpatient admission arrangements:**

#### **Mercy Mental Health process for accepting COVID patients**

Mercy Mental Health are accepting patients who have been swabbed for COVID19 or are known to be COVID19 positive into their IPU at Werribee Mercy Hospital and have the following arrangement:

- Swab results are not required prior to accepting or transferring patients.
- For patient who require LDU care – Patients admitted to the COVID Inpatient ward.
- For patients who require ICA care- IPU Intensive Care area.

Mercy Mental Health won't be admitting patients to Ursula Frayne Centre (based at Footscray) if patients has COVID19 test result pending or who are COVID19 positive.

#### **North Western Mental Health process for accepting COVID patients**

North Western Mental health are accepting patients who have been swabbed for COVID19 or who are known to be COVID19 positive into their Inpatient Units at Sunshine, Royal Melbourne Health, Northern, and Broadmeadows and have the following arrangements:

- Swab results are not required prior to accepting or transferring patients.
- For patients who require LDU care – Patients admitted to their Intensive Care area and move to the general area when results come back.
- For patients who require ICA care- Intensive care area.

Please note the Isolation areas in each unit are limited and this may mean that there are delays in obtaining appropriate beds.

### **Escalation Pathways:**

#### **North-Western Mental Health:**

Business Hours: - Please discuss with the NWMH EMH manager- Donal Twomey- 0438320639.

After hours- Escalate to AHA who can contact the NWMH on call manager.

#### **Mercy Mental Health:**

Business Hours: - Please discuss with the Mercy EMH manager- Natasha Stresnjak 0466869681.

After hours - Escalate to AHA who can contact the Mercy on call manager.