

Western Health COVID19 screening in the Emergency Department QRG



Western Health

COVID - 19

Be Safe -- Be Smart -- Be Kind

Overview:

The document provides guidance on the appropriate COVID19 screening processes in the Emergency Departments of Western Health. Robust screening ensures that patients are appropriately tested for COVID or risk stratified, to ensure that the appropriate infection prevention protocols are observed. The suspected or known COVID status of a patient supports the appropriate Ward bed allocation for **ALL** admitted patients. For non-admitted patients the screening process supports, contact tracing processes, should the need arise post discharge.

Process:

1. Triage Screening by Triage nurse – High Risk vs Low Risk cubicle allocation.
 - a. [Guideline for arriving patient Emergency Medicine COVID](#)
 - b. [QRG – Triage and Cohorting Emergency Medicine](#)
2. Medical Officer - patient screening against testing criteria – determine +/- need for COVID 19 testing
 - a. [QRG – Emergency Department – Initial COVID Screening EMR.](#)

The outcome of the screening tool also supports the appropriate Ward bed allocation.

3. All patients to be admitted to a ward within Western Health are to have the Nursing COVID assessment tool completed by the bedside nurse immediately prior to transfer to establish if COVID risk has changed.
 - a. [QRG – Nursing COVID Assessment](#)

If the patient's status has changed e.g. new complaint, of sore throat, or new observation of fever; patient is not to be transferred to the Ward and Nurse in Charge (NIC) and attending Medical officer is to be **immediately** notified.

4. The above tool is to be completed in the Short Stay Units thereafter once a shift on ALL patients by the treating bedside nurse.