

Day and Overnight Leave

Updated 3 May 2022



Western Health

COVID - 19

Be Safe -- Be Smart -- Be Kind

Purpose

Day leave and overnight leave are an important part of facilitating recovery and wellbeing for some patients at Western Health. The purpose of this document is to describe the COVID screening and testing requirements for patients taking day leave or overnight leave and minimize risk of transmission.

Who is permitted to have day leave?

Patients are permitted day or overnight leave where clinically indicated to achieve therapy goals, to support discharge planning, for compassionate reasons or as part of a residential program provided their multidisciplinary treating team approves AND:

- They are not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19;
- They do not have any COVID-19 symptoms; and
- They are not awaiting COVID-19 test results

The patient's family and friends who they will spend time with on day should also be screened for these COVID-19 risk factors and must not be in self-isolation or quarantine for any other reason.

During day or overnight leave:

Patients should be provided with the information leaflet with tips for staying safe during day leave found in Appendix 1.

Returning to the hospital:

On return to the hospital the patient should be screened using the initial EMR COVID screening tool. Patients for whom no risk factors are identified may return to their usual room and are not required to isolate. Patients for whom risk factors are identified should be tested and managed as per usual cohorting and infection prevention policies.

Surveillance testing following return to hospital:

All patients returning from day or overnight leave are required to participate in surveillance testing in the week following their return. The same testing is required for patients each time they return from day or overnight leave as is required for all new admissions. Refer to the 'Routine surveillance testing for inpatients using Rapid Antigen Tests' QRG available on the [Coronavirus microsite](#) for details.

Appendix A:

Day or Overnight Leave

Can I go on day or overnight leave?



You may go on leave provided:



Your multidisciplinary treating team approves **AND**



You do not have any COVID-19 risk factors including:



You are not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19

You and the family and friends you meet with do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and are not awaiting COVID-19 test results

What can you and your family do to keep COVID-19 safe on day leave?



Meet outdoors, or if indoors keep windows and doors open for better fresh air ventilation



Wash your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser before you eat and drink



Minimise the number of people you meet with



When travelling in a car, open car windows to improve ventilation and wear a mask



Limit shared food and arrange for one person to serve food



Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes and mouth



Clean high touch surfaces, such as the table top, light switches and door handles, with disinfectant



Wearing a face mask is recommended, when you cannot physically distance from others

To keep everyone at Western Health safe, patients will need to participate in regular asymptomatic COVID testing on return from day or overnight leave

Enjoy your day and please contact your medical team or the Nurse in Charge if you have any questions or any concerns while on day leave