

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease) **Important information for patients**

In December 2019, a new Coronavirus was discovered which causes a respiratory disease called COVID-19. The virus has now been declared a pandemic by The World Health Organization and The WA Government has declared a State of Emergency for Western Australia.

Standard Features of Infection

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Of course many other respiratory infections can have similar symptoms.

Standard Recommendations for Preventing Infection

Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing. Social distances of 1.5 meters and contact times of <15 mins are recommended when mixing with the general population, as well as avoiding gatherings.

As of Tuesday 31st March 2020 Western Australia will start Stage 3 restrictions on Indoor and outdoor gatherings. These restrictions limit both indoor and outdoor activities to two persons only.

If you have an appointment in the coming weeks at The Lung Health Clinic

We kindly request that if any of the following applies to you, to contact us immediately on 6180 4360 or email: admin@lunghealth.net.au so we can discuss your situation and the best way forward.

- You have travelled **Interstate OR Overseas OR on a Cruise Ship** in the last 3 weeks
- You have been in contact with someone who has travelled in the last 3 weeks
- You have been in **direct contact** with a confirmed Covid-19 case
- You have had any signs or **symptoms of a 'cold'** (fever, cough etc) over the last 3 weeks

Due to our limited waiting area and in the interest of social distancing, we will only allow 1 support person to accompany a patient to the clinic. Any additional persons will be asked to wait outside in the foyer

Attendance at the Lung Health Clinic

The health and safety of our patients and staff is paramount, so when you attend for your appointment we will require the following:

- **All visitors** must clean their hands with sanitizer gel provided **outside** the clinic door and **again** on entering the clinic waiting area
- Walking aids or wheel chair handles must be wiped down with disinfectant wipes before entering
- **Refrain** from shaking hands or touching doctors and staff
- **Use only the available chairs** in the waiting area, these are appropriately spaced apart and if more than 4 people are in the waiting area you will be asked to wait in the larger waiting room outside

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- **Please sneeze or cough into a tissue** (provided in the waiting area) and dispose of after one use. Please sanitise your hands again afterwards
- **Do not lean on the desks** in the consulting rooms
- **Stay 1.5 metres back from the front reception desk**

Breathing Tests

For any breathing or other tests we carry out on you we are mindful of both protecting you and our staff. Our staff will be wearing masks for their personal protection. For your protection all equipment is wiped down between use with disinfectant and each person has their own personalised filter and mouth piece for each test undertaken (which is disposed of immediately post use).

To reduce congestion in our clinic environment we may not be able to do a breathing test on the day of your appointment.

General Policy

We are taking every precaution to ensure protection against transmission of the Corona virus. We are adapting to the new rules and restrictions implemented by the government as they come into place. We are working our hardest to ensure our standard of care is not compromised, so please be respectful to the staff that continue to deliver this service to you. We have all been affected by this and are in this together.

Telehealth Service

We are currently implementing a Telehealth service for eligible patients. **This may be appeal to you** and if so please let us know so that it can be organized. In some instances we may still request you call in briefly for a test. In some instances we will approach you directly about having a Telehealth appointment if we feel it might be in your best interest.

If You Have Concerns

If you are uncomfortable attending your appointment, please phone us on 6180 4360 or email: admin@lunghealth.net.au to discuss your concerns.

Additional Information

For additional information, please check the state and federal health websites as they are updated on a daily basis. For more general information please go to our website

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

<https://www.health.wa.gov.au/>

<https://www.who.int/westernpacific>

<http://www.lunghealth.net.au>

You can also call the Coronavirus Health Information line on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 Hours a day, seven days a week.