



Supporting Information

Supplementary methods and results

This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.
It is posted as supplied by the authors.

Appendix to: Williams E, Bond K, Williamson DH. Limited clinical value of early repeat RT-PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2. *Med J Aust* 2021; doi: 10.5694/mja2.51102.

Table. COVID-19 screening and transmission-based precautions protocols

Suspected COVID-19: criteria*	Number of negative SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR results required to stand down transmission-based precautions†	
Fever OR chills in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that explains the clinical presentation OR Acute respiratory infection (eg. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, anosmia or loss of smell or loss of taste)	Two combined deep nasal and oropharyngeal swabs OR One combined deep nasal and oropharyngeal swab AND One lower respiratory tract sample	All patients requiring hospital admission that meet suspected COVID-19 criteria excluding those listed below
Testing note: Testing is also recommended for people with new onset of other clinical symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (including headache, myalgia, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea) AND who are close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19, who have returned from overseas in the past 14 days or who are healthcare or aged care workers.	One combined deep nasal and oropharyngeal swab	1. All patients requiring hospital admission that meet suspected COVID-19 criteria AND Have an alternative explanation for their symptoms AND Do not have pneumonia AND Do not have epidemiological risk factors for COVID-19 OR 2. Ambulatory patients that meet suspected COVID-19 criteria OR 3. Asymptomatic patients prior to operative management or multiple aerosol generating procedures

COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019; SARS-CoV-2 = severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus.

*Victorian Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for suspected COVID-19.¹

† Royal Melbourne Hospital suspected COVID-19 screening guidelines (unpublished).

Note: Limited asymptomatic COVID-19 screening of health care workers and close contacts of known COVID-19 cases was also undertaken during this period.

References

- 1 Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): case and contact management guidelines for health services and general practitioners, version 23. 10 July 2020. <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-services-and-professionals-coronavirus-covid-19> (viewed Sept 2020).

Figure. Flowchart of patients undergoing SARS-CoV-2 testing at the Royal Melbourne Hospital between 1 June and 21 July, 2020

