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PART A  Issuing statement and version notes

Issuing statement

I, Dr Mark Veitch, being and as the Director of Public Health, acting pursuant to section 184 of the Public Health Act 1997, hereby:

(1) revoke the Guidelines for Notifying 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV); and

(2) issue these Guidelines, being the Guidelines for Notifying Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

(3) determine that these Guidelines come into effect on and from 5 March 2020.

Dated this 25 February 2020

Dr Mark Veitch
Director of Public Health

Version notes

5 March 2020  Start date for re-issued Guidelines. This version replaces the 6 February 2020 version. The changes reflect the official naming of the disease by the World Health Organization.

6 February 2020  First version of the Guidelines start operating.
PART B  Introduction

Content of guidelines

These Guidelines set out when and how laboratories and medical practitioners must notify the Director of Public Health of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Legal framework

The Public Health Act 1997 contains the legal framework for declaring notifiable diseases and issuing notification guidelines.

Under section 40, the Director of Public Health has issued a public notice declaring coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) a notifiable disease for the purposes of the Act.¹

Section 46 provides that guidelines may require a person notify the Director of a notifiable disease. These guidelines serve that purpose for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).


Guidelines are issued under section 184 and they contain legal requirements. Not complying with them is an offence under section 184(5) and penalties may apply.

¹ The public notice is available at www.gazette.tas.gov.au.
PART C  Definitions

A word or phrase appearing in *italics* in these Guidelines has the meaning given to it in the table below. If there is an asterisk (*) next to the word or phrase, its meaning is taken from the *Public Health Act 1997* at the effective date of the Guidelines. If the definition in the Act later changes, that new definition replaces the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word or phrase</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Public Health*</td>
<td>means the Director of Public Health appointed under the <em>Public Health Act 1997</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laboratory*</td>
<td>means a laboratory whether associated with a hospital or not</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health Officer</td>
<td>means a person who holds a delegation from the <em>Director of Public Health</em> under the <em>Public Health Act 1997</em> to investigate the presence or occurrence, or suspected presence or occurrence, of diseases declared under section 40 as notifiable diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superintendent</td>
<td>means the person in charge</td>
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PART D  Laboratory notification

When to notify

(1) The superintendent of a laboratory who is aware (by reason of a test carried out in, or a test result received by, the laboratory) that a person has evidence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) must notify the Director of Public Health or a Public Health Officer in accordance with the requirements of this Part D.

How to notify

(2) Upon being required to notify, the superintendent must do so by immediately:

(a) telephoning 1800 671 738; and

(b) sending a facsimile to 03 6222 7744.

What to notify

(3) The superintendent must notify the following information:

(a) In relation to the person with evidence of the disease:

(i) Full name

(ii) Gender

(iii) Date of birth

(iv) Telephone number(s) (if known)

(v) Usual residential address
    (street number and name, suburb, postcode)

(vi) Postal address (if different to above)

(vii) Whether the person is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or both (if known)

(b) In relation to the disease:

(i) Laboratory allocated number for the specimen

(ii) Date the specimen tested was collected

(iii) Method of diagnosis

(iv) Date the test result was authorised by the laboratory
(c) In relation to the superintendent:
   (i) Name
   (ii) Telephone number(s)

(d) In relation to the laboratory:
   (i) Name
   (ii) If not previously notified:
       I. Street address
          (street number and name, suburb, postcode)
       II. Postal address (if different to above)
       III. Telephone number(s)
       IV. Facsimile number
       V. Email address

(e) In relation to the medical practitioner requesting the test:
   (i) Name
   (ii) Name of practice clinic / hospital
   (iii) Street address of practice clinic / hospital
         (street number and name, suburb, postcode)
   (iv) Postal address of practice clinic / hospital (if different to above)
   (v) Telephone number(s)
   (vi) Facsimile number
   (vii) Email address (if known).
PART E   Medical practitioner notification

When to notify

(1) A medical practitioner who is aware or suspects that a person they are attending has evidence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) must notify the Director of Public Health or a Public Health Officer in accordance with the requirements of this Part E.

(2) A medical practitioner is not required to notify under clause (1) if they are aware that the Director of Public Health or a Public Health Officer has previously been notified by a medical practitioner or a laboratory in accordance with these Guidelines.

How to notify

(3) Upon being required to notify, the medical practitioner must do so by immediately telephoning 1800 671 738.

What to notify

(4) The medical practitioner must notify the following information:

(a) In relation to the person with, or with suspected, evidence of the disease:

   (i) Full name
   (ii) Gender
   (iii) Date of birth
   (iv) Telephone number(s)
   (v) Usual residential address
       (street number and name, suburb, postcode)
   (vi) Postal address (if different to above)
   (vii) Whether the person is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or both (if known)
   (viii) Date of death (if applicable)
(b) In relation to the disease:
   (i)  Suspected date of onset

(c) In relation to the medical practitioner:
   (i)  Name
   (ii) Name of practice clinic / hospital
   (iii) Street address of practice clinic / hospital
         (street number and name, suburb, postcode)
   (iv) Postal address of practice clinic / hospital (if different to above)
   (v)  Telephone number(s)
   (vi) Facsimile number
   (vii) Email address.