

## Information on Lung Function Testing

10/08/2020

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the TSANZ in conjunction with the ANZSRS updated recommendations regarding the performance of lung function tests. Our recommendations from the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 are being changed for those practicing in Victoria or the Greater Sydney Region in response to the increase in COVID-19 in these areas.

For those practicing in areas outside Victoria or the Greater Sydney Region, the recommendations made on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July are unchanged with the addition of a recommendation relating to PPE. That is:

- All Pulmonary Function Testing including cardiopulmonary exercise testing and bronchoprovocation testing can now be performed in patients who are afebrile, and who have no symptoms of a viral illness.
- Tier one PPE in line with state government guidelines, and physical distancing in public areas is still required.
- It is recommended that Body Temperature is measured on all patients prior to testing to ensure they are afebrile.
- Pulmonary Function Testing is NOT recommended in patients who are febrile, or who have an escalating acute respiratory condition.
- We also recommend that testing only be performed using lung function equipment that utilise inline filters.
- If testing must be performed without the use of in-line filters, an increased level of PPE may be required

### **Recommendations for Lung Function Testing in Victoria and Greater Sydney**

- Lung function testing should only be performed where deemed clinically essential by a respiratory physician.
- Where lung function testing is deemed essential, requested investigations should be kept to a minimum to inform clinical decision making.
- Bronchial provocation testing (BPT) should be avoided at this time. All other tests of lung function can be performed provided they are clinically essential to patient management and appropriate PPE is available.
- Minimum of Tier 1 PPE with face shields for persons performing tests where inline filters can be used on breathing pathway of testing equipment. Tier 2 PPE (droplet and contact precautions, including the use of N95 masks) is recommended where inline filters are not available or where high levels of ventilation (CPET) or coughing (e.g. BPT, airway clearance initiation assessments - Bronchitol, 6%NaCl) are expected.
- All patients attending for lung function tests should be pre-screened for COVID symptoms prior to attendance at appointment. Body temperature is measured on all patients prior to testing to ensure they are afebrile. Lung function testing is NOT recommended in patients who are febrile, who have an escalating acute respiratory condition, or are known to be COVID 19 positive or suspected COVID 19 positive.
- Tests for patients awaiting COVID 19 test results must be delayed until confirmed negative.

The TSANZ and ANZSRS suggest that members should check for guidance from their state and federal health departments. The link to the Australian Department of Health is: [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and the link to the Ministry of health in NZ is <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>.

This approach is consistent with recent recommendations by national and international agencies and are subject to ongoing review.



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