

CORONAVIRUS — GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

**83. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the preparedness of general practitioners to deal with the growing number of COVID-19 cases in WA.

- (1) When will the guidelines for GP furloughing and the risk matrix for GPs be announced and communicated?
- (2) Will the McGowan government deliver a COVID hotline for GPs who are seeking direction and advice regarding antivirals and COVID treatment throughout WA, including in regional and remote areas?
- (3) When will the WA protocols for antivirals be adopted and communicated to health professionals working in general practice?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

Before I answer this question, I point out that it refers to two websites, but it is not in breach of the conventions of the house because the member did not ask for documents to be tabled.

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The *WA COVID-19 healthcare worker furloughing guidelines* have been published and are available at [ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/Health-for/Infectious-disease/COVID19/COVID19-Healthcare-worker-furloughing-guidelines.pdf](http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/Health-for/Infectious-disease/COVID19/COVID19-Healthcare-worker-furloughing-guidelines.pdf). The WA COVID-19 guidelines for healthcare practices in the community, which contain the risk matrix for GPs, will be announced and communicated this week.
- (2) GPs seeking direction and clinical advice should follow normal processes of accessing specialist advice. Each tertiary hospital has a consultant who can be contacted for access to antivirals for general patient escalation. GPs should contact their local hospital in accordance with their patient's clinical needs.
- (3) The WA protocols for antivirals have been developed and are due to be adopted and communicated to clinicians in the next week. They will be located under the clinical guidelines on that same website.