

Information for Asymptomatic People Screened for COVID-19 (Lower Risk)

Thank you for having COVID-19 testing today even though you have no symptoms of COVID-19. You are considered at lower risk for COVID-19 because you have not returned from overseas in the last 14 days, been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, and are not subject to required testing because you are a border worker.

What happens next?

- **As you are at lower risk for COVID19, being tested when you have no symptoms is your choice.** You do not have to be tested today if you don't wish to be.
- You will be asked questions, including your name, date of birth, your address, and about where you work.
- You will have a swab taken from the back of your nose; this can be a bit uncomfortable. This swab is sent to an Auckland laboratory for testing. **Results take around 5 days to come back.**
- **Unless you have been advised otherwise by public health you can continue to work and don't need to self-isolate while you wait for your result.**

What happens next if my result is negative?

If test results come back **negative** you will be notified about it via **text message or email** (or on a landline phone if you don't have these). It means that COVID-19 was not detected at the time you were tested.

Having a negative test now does not mean you can't get COVID-19 in the future. If you become unwell with the symptoms of COVID-19 you should stay home from work, let your manager know, and be tested again.

If you do not receive your results **AFTER 5 DAYS** you can call the NDHB COVID-19 Hotline on 0800 600 720. This phone line is monitored from 8 am to 4.30 pm on weekdays, for test results and information on testing centres only.

What does a positive test mean and what will happen next?

A **positive result means you have COVID-19**. Someone from public health will contact you. You will be asked to move into a Quarantine Facility until you are no longer infectious to stop the virus from spreading to others. This will be for at least 10 days and until you are completely well for three days.

Staying in a Quarantine Facility is a Ministry of Health requirement. The closest Quarantine Facility to Northland is located in Auckland. All travel arrangements will be made for you by public health. There is more information about Quarantine Facilities at <https://covid19.govt.nz/>.

Public Health will ask you about all the people (contacts) you have spent time with just before and since you became unwell and will provide those people with advice about testing and self-isolation.

What do I do if I start to feel unwell while you are waiting for your results?

If you develop any symptoms of COVID-19 while you are waiting for your results, including any of the following – sore throat, fever, cough, shortness of breath, head cold, loss of sense of smell – you must **stay home and away from work or school**.

If you feel worse and need to see a doctor you should seek medical care. Please **call ahead before seeing a doctor** so they can prepare to see you and to keep themselves and other patients safe. Let the doctor know you have been tested already.

What happens to the information collected about me?

We will only use and disclose your personal information if that is permitted by law. Within the national response to COVID-19 disclosure may occur to your GP; healthcare organisations such as Public Health, and the Ministry of Health; your employer; and your whānau, for example to enable contact tracing.

Where can I go for more advice?

You can call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 for advice. **Healthline will NOT be able to access your results.**

You can get more information from the Government COVID-19 website here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>.