

You were tested for COVID-19 at a Community Testing Centre or Mobile Testing Service (Lower Index of Suspicion)

Thank you for getting tested because you **have symptoms** of COVID-19. These symptoms can also be caused by many other viruses, like influenza. We only tested you for COVID-19 today. This swab is sent to an Auckland laboratory for testing and **results may take up to 5 days to come back**.

Because you **do not meet the Higher Index of Suspicion criteria** listed on the Ministry of Health website, **you are not required to self-isolate** while you are waiting for your test results.

We **advise you to stay at home until you are completely well** to avoid passing on other infections.

How will I get my test results?

Negative test results are notified by **text message or email** (or on a landline phone). 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 negative test result mean?

If your test result is negative it means that **COVID-19 was not detected in the swab taken**. If you become more unwell or have ongoing fevers you should seek medical care. Having a negative test now does not mean you can't get COVID-19 in the future. If you become unwell again with the symptoms of COVID-19 you should be tested again.

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 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 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.

What are the Higher Index of Suspicion criteria?

Within the last 14 days a person:

- had contact with a COVID-19 case,
- arrived from outside New Zealand,
- had direct contact with someone who has travelled internationally,
- worked in an international aircraft or ship,
- cleaned at international air or maritime port or areas frequently visited by international travellers,
- was identified by public health as having a higher index of suspicion for other reasons.

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/>.

