

COVID-19 Primary Care Algorithm



Case Definitions for Primary Care Settings

Suspected Case (Category 1 and 2)

The patient is classified as a suspect case if they satisfy **both** the epidemiological and clinical criteria.

Epidemiological Criteria

Travel to or from **countries or areas of concern** within 14 days before onset of illness

OR

Close or casual contact in 14 days before onset of illness with a suspected, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 infection.

Clinical Criteria

Fever or history of fever OR acute respiratory infection with at least one of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat with or without fever.

Suspected Case Category 3

Healthcare workers with moderate or severe community acquired pneumonia (no travel needed)

Probable Case

A suspect case where COVID-19 is very likely because no other cause of severe illness has been found (simplified)

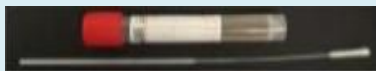
Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19

Specimen Collection for patients NOT requiring hospitalisation

Use droplet precautions i.e. fluid resistant gown, gloves, eye protection and a surgical mask

- Using **VIRAL nasopharyngeal swabs do a single flocked nasopharyngeal swab**. Put in a Virus Transport Medium (VTM red top) tube.

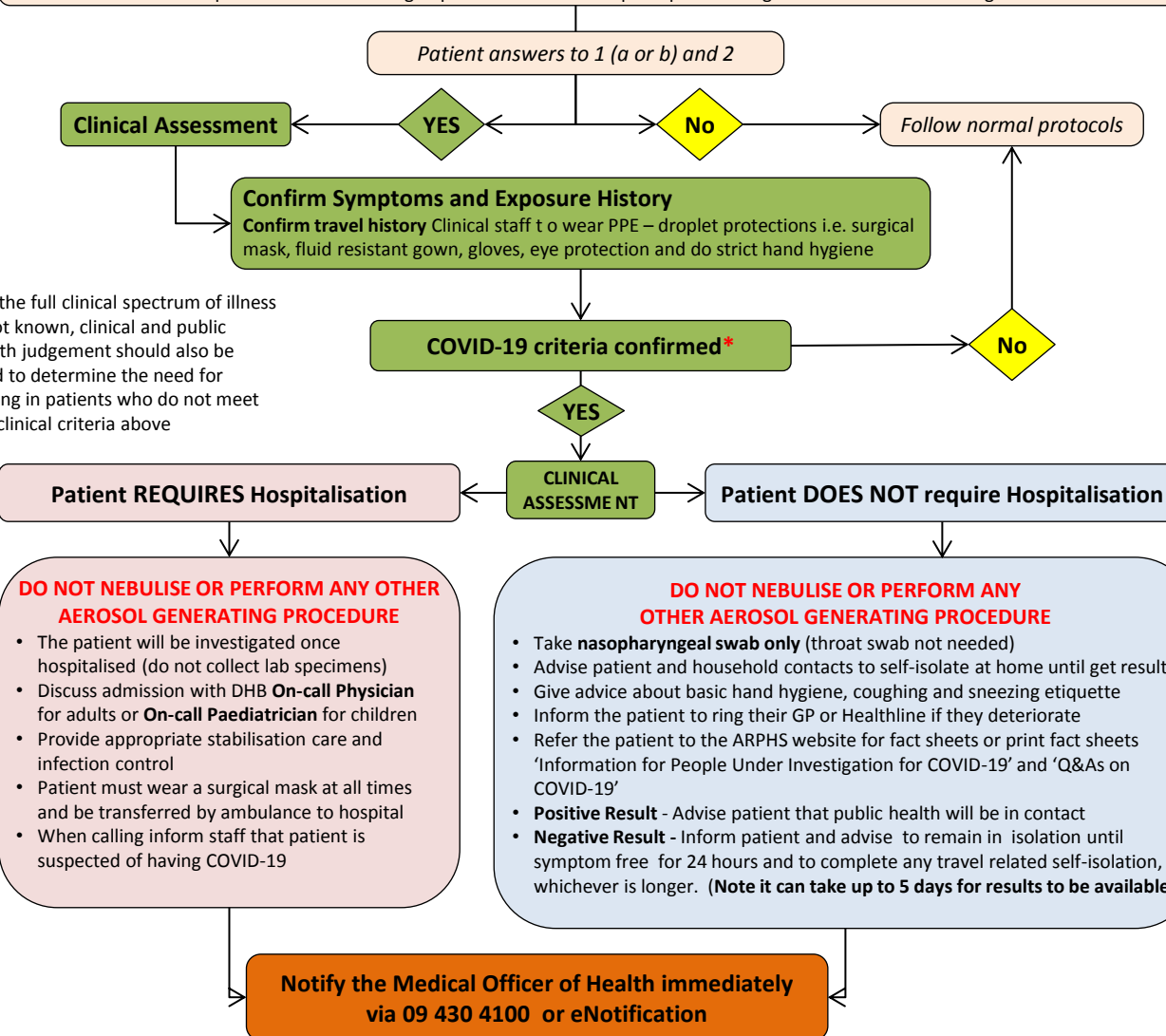


- On the **Laboratory Request Form** write:
 - Suspected COVID-19 for Respiratory Panel PCR.
 - Copy to Public Health
 - Include clinical details and travel history.
- Safely remove and dispose of PPE after specimen collection and perform hand hygiene

Patient phones for appointment or arrives at practice – RECEPTION/NURSE TRIAGE

- Ask the patient about exposures: a) Have you had **overseas travel (excluding the Pacific Islands)** in the 14 days before onset of illness? **OR** b) Have you had any contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 in 14 days before onset of your illness?
- Ask the patient about symptoms: Do you have a fever or have you had a fever and cough, shortness or breath, or a sore throat?

NOTE: ONLY PATIENTS WITH SYMPTOMS NEED A MASK AND ISOLATION: If the patient is waiting in their car, practice staff can take mask to vehicle and escort the patient into the building. If patient arrives at reception provide surgical mask and direct to single room.





COVID-19 CASE DEFINITION

Countries or Areas of Concern

Note: Areas of concern will continue to change, refer to the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Case Definition webpage](#) for the latest countries

Travel Category	Country (excludes airport transit)	Self-isolation expectation	No fever or respiratory symptoms	Has a fever or respiratory symptoms
One (a and b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainland China • Iran • Republic of Korea • Rest of the World excluding the Pacific (except French Polynesian) 	Yes, for 14 days after exiting the category one country.	<p>No need to isolate, mask or test the patient.</p> <p>Manage presenting complaint.</p> <p>Complete 14 days self-isolation once leaves .</p>	<p>Mask and isolate patient and assess as per algorithm.</p> <p>Swab and isolate at home awaiting results.</p> <p>Complete 14 days self-isolation in all cases.</p>
Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Pacific Islands (excluding French Polynesia) 	Not as a routine for asymptomatic travellers	<p>No need to isolate, mask or test the patient.</p> <p>Manage presenting complaint.</p> <p>No need for self-isolation once leaves.</p>	<p>Mask and isolate patient and assess as per algorithm.</p> <p>Swab and isolate at home awaiting results.</p>

NOTES

If you think the patient may have an atypical presentation of COVID-19 then mask, isolate, use PPE and clinically assess as a suspected case. **Isolate** means the patient should be placed **in a single room** and not sit in the waiting area.