

COVID-19 FAST FACTS FOR 2 APRIL 2020



Case Definition for COVID-19

The new Case Definition for COVID-19 is attached. In particular, please note the following update to the suspect case definition.

A suspect case is anyone who has:

Fever ($\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) AND/OR any acute respiratory infection with at least one of the following symptoms: cough/sore throat/shortness of breath.

This includes symptomatic close contacts of suspect cases.

We are currently recommending that suspect cases should be tested.

Asymptomatic people should not be tested unless referred by the Medical Officer of Health.

PLEASE NOTE; All people meeting the suspect, under investigation, probable or confirmed case definition should isolate themselves to reduce risk to others, even if they return a negative test. The isolation period is the longer of:

- 14 days from potential exposure (e.g. international travel or contact with a confirmed case)
- 10 days from onset of symptoms
- 48 hours from resolution of symptoms

An updated Primary Care COVID-19 algorithm is under development, which will then be uploaded to Auckland Regional Healthpathways. You will be notified when this is done.

Community Based Assessment Centres (CBACs)

Testing Centres are now transitioning to Assessment Centres. Please refer people with Influenza Like Illness (ILI) to a CBAC. Further detail to follow

Two new CBACs are due to open. An updated list of CBACs is attached, including a revised address for the Langimalie Panmure centre.

In addition to CBACs, some general practices have been designated to continue assessing and swabbing possible COVID-19 patients in the interim. Your PHO will know which these are. Further detail to follow.

Swabbing

We are now transitioning from nasopharyngeal to oropharyngeal (throat) swabbing to test for COVID-19. Guidelines for this are attached.

Medicines Information

The Christchurch Medicines Information Service has put together a web page containing regularly updated information about medicines reported to worsen COVID-19 and medicines reported as treatment for COVID-19. The bottom-line is that there are currently no clinical studies demonstrating increased harm from any medicine use in relation to COVID-19 and patients should not be advised to stop any regular medicine for this reason. Treatment for COVID-19 is supportive; there are no medicines which should be prescribed for the direct treatment of COVID-19 outside of a clinical trial. ([source BPAC Covid Bulletin #2](#))

The Medicines Information web page is

<http://www.medicinesinformation.co.nz/2020/03/20/medicines-and-covid-19/>

This can also be found as well as lots of other useful information at Auckland Regional Healthpathways

<https://aucklandregion.healthpathways.org.nz/index.htm> (Covid-19 Healthpathways pages)

Please see the attached [BPAC Bulletin#2](#) for other useful Primary Care updates.

National screening programmes impacted by COVID-19

The Ministry of Health's National Screening Unit has issued advice on how COVID-19 will impact access to its various screening programmes.

Please see the attached information from the MoH relating to the National Bowel Screening Programme, National Cervical Screening Programme, BreastScreen Aotearoa and Antenatal and Newborn Screening Programmes.

[National Screening Programmes - COVID-19 advice to primary care.pdf](#) [56.4 KB]

INR testing during COVID-19

See attached the statement on INR testing from THANZ during Covid-19.

Guidelines and training for "Working with remote interpreters" for health practitioners.

As we have moved into COVID-19 Alert Level 4, we understand the health sector is moving towards the use of remote interpreters as a priority and minimising the use of face-to-face interpreters to reduce close contacts. This would mean a greater need for practical skills training and guidelines, eg understanding how to effectively utilise remote interpreting sessions to interact with patients.

To help our health workforce to gain the essential knowledge and skills to work with remote interpreters, eCALD® Services:

- have published a set of "[Guidelines for working with remote interpreters](#)"
- is offering a list of one-hour remote training session "**Module 101: Working with remote interpreters [HP] for health practitioners**. [Click here for more details about the course, etc](#)
- have scheduled a list of Module 101 one-hour remote training sessions available from 1st April 2020 to 22nd April 2020 (2 sessions per day at 10am-11am and 2pm-3pm). The **Module 101 courses** are available for enrolling in the ENROLMENT SECTION of the eCALD® user account. You can also [view the list of Module 101 course dates and times here](#).