

# COVID-19 FAST FACTS 20 APRIL 2020



## Auckland PHO Network Zoom

When: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 5.30pm

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/4040266333?pwd=OHJWSmxyNnpnbThuRzFydWpMMllyQT09>

Meeting ID: 404 026 6333

Password: 210

### Zoom Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Zoom Housekeeping
- 4pm Government Decision
- Designated Practices – role and locations
- Funding in the time of COVID
- Phone messages for after hours
- Mental Health – supporting patients
- New Mental Health Funding
- Clinical and psychosocial care for Carextra and other LTC patients
- Virtual consultations
- Q and A

## MEDINZ Updated COVID-19 case definition – 16 April 2020

The Ministry of Health has released an updated COVID-19 case definition (16 April). See attached.

The updated case definition allows for more extensive testing, including testing of people who are asymptomatic, on advice from the local Medical Officer of Health:

- When an outbreak or cluster is suspected, or being investigated
- When a case is identified in a vulnerable residential institution such as an aged residential care facility.

Testing of individuals who are asymptomatic is NOT recommended unless requested by the local Medical Officer of Health.

### Please check your swab orders when they arrive

As both nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs are still in circulation, please double-check whether you have nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal in stock and keep these swab types separate.

We apologise for the delay earlier this week in supply of nasopharyngeal swabs – this supply has been delivered to PHOs and CBACs today. No supply issue is expected over the weekend.

Please check your orders on arrival and use nasopharyngeal swabs as the preference.

## Management of Symptomatic and Exposed Health Workers re Covid

Attached is the latest advice from the Covid Clinical Technical Advisory Group regarding the advice for Health Care Workers COVID-19 Exposure and Symptom Management.

This is interim advice and may change in the future as viral transmission risks are better understood.

## COVID-19: Notice to general practice retesting of automated texts to patients

The DHB are currently testing a system that sends an automated text to notify people who have received a negative COVID-19 swab result.

During the testing phase, please continue to notify your patients directly of their COVID-19 swab results for tests you have arranged.

It is crucial that you continue to notify your patients – as not all people with a negative result will receive an automated text notification via this system during the testing phase.

The DHB will notify general practice when testing is complete with further information.

### **Increased testing capacity available for sexually transmitted diseases - a message from Labtests**

As of 16/4/20, Labtests is able to offer business as usual testing for sexually transmitted infections including chlamydia and gonorrhoea. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. This advice replaces the previous limitations necessitated by NZ laboratories COVID-19 response measures (see NZMN Covid19 notification <https://labtests.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jhkkfid-dlaklujut-h/> )

Please note that due to shared COVID-19 testing staffing and molecular platforms, HSV/VZV PCR testing remains restricted in the community setting.

In order to allow appropriate allocation of resources and maintain quality of reporting, provision of appropriate clinical details remains a requirement for processing of other microbiology and molecular samples. We will provide further updates as we are able to expand our criteria for testing in these areas.

### **PHARMAC - Some special authority and NPPA approvals automatically extended**

PHARMAC and the Ministry of Health have implemented a blanket extension of three months for special authority and NPPA approvals that were due to expire at the end of March or April 2020.

- All Special Authorities that were due to expire on 31 March 2020 or 30 April 2020 have been extended for 3 months. (i.e 31 March extended to 30 June 2020 and 30 April extended to 31 July 2020)
- All Named patient Pharmaceutical Application (“NPPA”) approvals that were due to expire on 31 March 2020 or 30 April 2020 have been extended for 3 months. (i.e 31 March extended to 30 June 2020 and 30 April extended to 31 July 2020)

This blanket change to expiry dates was implemented on Wednesday 15 April 2020 by the Ministry of Health and the changes are visible in the Electronic Special Authority System (“ESAS”)

This change follows feedback from prescribers who have difficulty accessing the ESAS during Covid19 lockdown. Please see the website for more details about this change - [pharmac.govt.nz/covid19](https://pharmac.govt.nz/covid19)