

How to Refer to Mobile COVID-19 Testing Services

A mobile COVID-19 testing service is now available to those that have difficulty accessing Community-Based Assessment Centres (CBACs) or designated practices for COVID-19 swabbing.

Phone 0800COVIDVAN or 0800 2684 3826 to refer to a mobile COVID-19 testing service.

The service is available Mon-Fri, 9.00am - 3.00pm, Sat 9.00am-1.00pm

Referral Criteria

- A person who fits current case definition with symptoms (other household members who are asymptomatic will also be offered swabbing)

AND

- A person who is unable to access a CBAC or other testing site OR
- A person who is a resident at an Aged Residential Care facility/Hospice and the usual primary care provider is not able to provide a swabbing service OR
- A person referred by a Māori or Pacific provider OR
- A person referred by Kainga Ora (previously known as Housing NZ) OR
- A person referred by IMT Welfare due to identified need

Primary Care Pathway for Persons with Acute Respiratory Symptoms

As communicated on Good Friday, as much as possible, it is anticipated that in-person primary care for **anyone** with acute respiratory symptoms as well as suspect, probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be delivered **outside** of standard general practice settings.

Community Based Assessment Centres (CBACs), Designated Practices and Urgent Care are capable of providing short term in-person primary care for suspect, probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19. This includes the management of both their acute respiratory illness, as well as any other healthcare need that would usually be managed by their general practice e.g. a long term condition.

Initial assessment should be undertaken virtually by the general practice however if in-person care is required for possible COVID-19 cases:

- For respiratory symptoms refer to CBACs, Designated Practices or Urgent Care
- For minor injuries refer to Urgent Care
- For other primary care needs (e.g. long term conditions) refer to Designated Practices or Urgent Care
- For people not enrolled in general practice (i.e. casuals) any primary care required will be undertaken by Designated Practices or Urgent Care

Under exceptional circumstances it is reasonable for COVID-19 swabbing to be performed in general practice settings provided safety for all patients and staff is assured. For additional guidance and information please refer to the 8 April Primary Care Algorithm available on Auckland Regional Health Pathways (under COVID-19 Assessment and Management)

A revised list of Designated Practices is attached. Please familiarise yourself with the referral process for your local services. For instance, most providers request a phone call. Please also submit an ARPHS eNotification as promptly as possible so the Designated Practice or CBAC can access clinical information.

For referring practices, you can submit eNotifications via Care Connect (see attached document showing Care Connect screenshot.)

For Designated Practices, you can access eNotifications via CareConnect Documents in Testsafe (see attached document showing Testsafe screenshot).

POAC COVID Retrospective Claiming

There has been a delay in retrospective claiming for COVID assessments and swabbing. We understand that a contract between the DHBs and POAC is imminent and your claims will be processed.

MPS Webinar Remote Consulting Q+As

A Webinar took place on 7th April by the MPS "Remote consulting in light of the COVID-19 outbreak". There were a number of very interesting questions sent in on the night and **Dr Samantha King** Medical Adviser MPS, has put together the attached Q+A document.

She notes that answers they have provided are of a general nature. Every case turns on its own facts. If you have concerns about a specific current issue, please call 0800 225 5677, option 3, to speak to the on-call Adviser for tailored advice.

NZ Diabetes COVID Research Review by Professor Jeremy Krebs

Professor Jeremy Krebs et al have produced a special report to summarise what is currently reported in the literature on Diabetes and COVID-19. Please see attached.

Highlights include:

- Risk of infection versus risk of severity of disease and mortality
- What should people with diabetes do when level 4 is reduced to level 3
- Advice for patients taking ACE inhibitors and ARBs

Patient Transportation to Diagnostics

In the event a patient has difficulty with transport to a diagnostic facility, we recommend using Discretionary Funding to enable the patient to take a taxi there and back. You will need to tick the consultation component (worth \$30) in the DF form. Any queries, contact Suzanne – suzanne@aucklandpho.co.nz

Influenza Vaccinations

Thank you for your hard work with the influenza programme this year. You've done an excellent job ensuring at-risk patients and healthcare and other frontline workers are protected as a matter of priority.

Essential workers outside of healthcare and emergency response - Essential workers not covered by the definition of healthcare and other frontline workers, such as supermarket workers and teachers, from today, can now be vaccinated. Note that it is not funded but is often paid for by employers either through a workplace vaccination programme or vouchers. A list of essential businesses employing eligible workers is online at <https://covid19.govt.nz/businesses-and-employees/essential-businesses/>

Progress to date - To date, according to the NIR, nearly 400,000 people aged 65 and over have been vaccinated, 5712 pregnant women, and nearly 200,000 others. Over 1.2 million doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed, with shipments of 370,000 more to arrive between now and mid-May.

Vaccination for the general public - From next Monday 27 April, influenza vaccination is open to anyone aged 3 or older. While vaccination is open to the general public, we ask practices to continue to recall any remaining eligible patients they may have and where possible give them priority for appointments. Providers should continue with community clinics and any other programmes they have to encourage eligible and other vulnerable patients to get vaccinated.

Paediatric vaccine - There are limited supplies of Afluria Quad Junior, so please continue to vaccinate only eligible children aged 6 to 35 months. Almost all stocks of this vaccine have been distributed, however we have only received a small number of claims for this. We will be asking practices for stock levels to enable at risk young children to continue to be vaccinated as far as possible.

PHARMAC

Please find attached a letter regarding the discontinuation of phenelzine tablets. This information, the distribution of which is of some urgency, will be of interest to GP's, psychiatrists and pharmacists.