

## Mount Albert Grammar School – Covid testing

ARPHS (Auckland Regional Public Health Service) have advised that there is a new positive case of COVID-19 associated with Mt. Albert Grammar School and they are now recommending all Mount Albert Grammar School staff/students and their whānau/families/related people are tested.

- Vouchers are ideally to be used by patients for testing via CTCs
- If a patient presents at your clinic with a voucher, they should be tested by the practice using the SURV code provided on the voucher.
- If the patient does not have a voucher, please use the SURV code SURV- TM2SC2. We are aware that the Medinz message sent on the 27<sup>th</sup> advised to use an incorrect SURV code SURV-TM2SCS however please be assured that both codes will be accepted by the labs.
- Please complete the eNotification form as normal including the SURV code; funding will be as per the usual reimbursement process

Please note the testing related to MAGS and the wider school is surveillance testing. These people **DO NOT** need to stand down from school or work, unless they are symptomatic. Please do not advise these children and their families that they need to stand down and cannot return to school or work until they get their negative tests result. Since this is surveillance testing, there is no stand down period and they can return to school and work immediately (unless symptomatic).

To send feedback, please email [Stuart.Jenkins@waitemataadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Stuart.Jenkins@waitemataadhb.govt.nz)

## Surveillance testing of General Practice and Urgent Care Staff ONLY

The Ministry of Health is recommending that as part of our current outbreak response, all **general practice primary care workers** should be considered for asymptomatic testing.

This testing is voluntary, but an important part of ensuring we have made every effort to identify and isolate any further cases in our community. Ideally all general practice/Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) workers will be swabbed, including clinical, administrative staff and cleaning/maintenance workers. There is an expectation that swabs are completed within normal business hours.

Surveillance testing of ARC/Youth Facilities etc is **not** currently included and further advice will be provided by the DHB early next week regarding a recommended testing strategy for their workforce, including contractors.

A template will be sent to you separately to capture the information below for your practice.

- the number of people employed or contracted by your practice and their roles
- the number of people swabbed in each practice and their role

Please note that this is an initial request until further advice is received from the Ministry of Health regarding an on-going surveillance testing strategy for primary care.

Staff testing can take place at the general practice or UCC where the person works or alternatively staff can attend a CTC.

All asymptomatic general practice/UCC staff surveillance tests should have **SURV-GPUC** recorded on the laboratory form and on the e-notification. All swabbing of general practice staff will be funded automatically through the usual e-notification POAC system. (A rate per swab of \$120 can be applied to swabs undertaken Mon - Fri before 5.00pm if Non-His.) Use appropriate SURV code **SURV-GPUC** or SURV-HIS if this applies.

Please note PPE guidance from the Ministry of Health regarding asymptomatic testing is available [here](#). When collecting a swab from someone who does not meet either the clinical or the HIS criteria for COVID-19, a plastic apron or fluid-resistant long sleeve gown is optional, based on a risk assessment of potential exposure to respiratory secretions. However, a mask, gloves, eye protection is recommended, and as always hand hygiene is essential. In addition, please note:

- Symptomatic staff also need to be tested but not as part of the asymptomatic surveillance testing process. In these situations, **full PPE is required**.
- Asymptomatic staff who have had their test **DO NOT** need to be stood down until results are back and can continue their normal duties unless otherwise instructed
- Symptomatic staff should stay home in self isolation until they receive their results and then need to stay at home until at least 24 hrs after resolution of symptoms if their swab is negative

In addition, please see attached new and clarified advice for clinicians on asymptomatic community testing for COVID-19 in the short-term.

[Guidance for primary and secondary care on essential groups for testing ....pdf](#) [197.6 KB]

Please send feedback to [Stuart.Jenkins@waitemataadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Stuart.Jenkins@waitemataadhb.govt.nz)

### Pop-Up Community Testing Centres for COVID-19

Over the coming days and weeks mobile testing units are being deployed across the Auckland Region as Pop-Up Community Testing Centres. The Pop-Ups do not replace existing Community Testing Centres. The units help increase access to testing for our local communities, who are not currently accessing testing. They will move to new locations every couple of days.

For more information, including locations and opening times, please refer to [www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test](http://www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test)  
Please send feedback to [Ryan.Stangroom@middlemore.co.nz](mailto:Ryan.Stangroom@middlemore.co.nz)

### Additional practice resources now available on HealthPathways

#### Specialist Mental Health Services – contact details

A resource has been developed that outlines specialist mental health services according to DHB and sub-specialty, and this is now available on [HealthPathways](#) – See Information section.

Please contact the specific service to check referral criteria as not all services receive direct referrals from Primary Care. Contact numbers are found on the respective DHB websites, Healthpoint or Auckland Regional HealthPathways.

#### Covid-19 Assessment and Management

An updated Covid-19 assessment and management algorithm, consistent with agreed funding, is now available on HealthPathways (search on Primary Care Algorithm). Please visit the algorithm by following [this link](#).

Please send feedback to [stuart.jenkins@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:stuart.jenkins@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

#### Laboratory Update: ApoE genotype testing and Collection Centres

**ApoE Genotype testing:** We have been advised that Canterbury Health Laboratories will introduce Pathologist review for all Apo E Genotype requests from 1st September 2020. See attached document for full details.

**Labtests collection centres:** The number of collection centres currently operating has been reduced due to the protocols required for Level 3. The 13 collection centres currently closed will remain closed when Auckland moves to Level 2 from Monday 31 August. This will be reviewed at the end of next week and we will keep you informed.

Please always check our official website for availability and hours for collection centres [www.labtests.co.nz](http://www.labtests.co.nz). The link to the full list can be found in the 'Important message' box at the top of the home page.

[200826ApoE at CHL.pdf](#) [178.1 KB]

Please send feedback to [cheryle.dyson@labtests.co.nz](mailto:cheryle.dyson@labtests.co.nz)

There is no cost for this update. It is approved by the National Screening Unit and meets the standards required for maintaining ongoing competence.

#### Free Seminar Screening Update

Auckland and Waitematā DHBs are hosting a free Cervical Screening Update on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

The National Screening Unit has released its Cervical Screening Clinical Practice Guidelines for New Zealand 2020 this update covers key changes to the guidelines. The session will cover the following topics:

- NCSP Update
- NCSP Guidelines – Colposcopy changes and management of symptomatic women - Dr Georgina McPherson - Nurse Practitioner Lead Colposcopist WDHB
- HPV Self-testing Research Update - Dr Karen Bartholomew - Public Health Physician Director of Health Outcomes ADHB and WDHB

This is a live zoom session which will be recorded and available as a webinar at a later date.

Registration is via Ko Awatea – the DHB's e-learning website <https://koawatealearn.co.nz/course/view.php?id=5623>