

## 1. Alert level green of the Primary Care Alert Response Framework from 18 November 2020

- Maintain red and green streaming
- **Triage every patient before they visit the practice**
- PHO's encourage medical grade masks for all staff and patients including hand sanitisation before the mask is worn. Please follow all IPC/PPE guidance accordingly  
<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/alert-level-1-ppe-guidelines-unknown-covid-status-22sept2020.pdf>

## 2. Possible new community case of COVID-19 under investigation, expect increase in demand for testing

There is a possible community case of COVID-19 in Auckland. The person tested positive in Shanghai, China on 22 November and is considered under investigation.

They visited Animates Manukau on Saturday 21 November. Anyone who was there between 1.22pm and 2.11pm is asked to get a test.

Please expect an increase in demand for testing and use the following SURV codes where relevant:

Close contacts (as advised by ARPHS)	SURV-TM7CC
Animates Manukau	SURV-TM7WK2

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

## 3. Community and weekend COVID testing access

For up to date information on Community Testing Centres, Designated Practices and any new Pop-up Testing Centres visit [www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test](http://www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test)

## 4. Updated Covid-19 Testing Guidance 16 - 29 November

- ARPHS will continue to provide advice on a case by case basis to both close and casual contacts
- Other HIS symptomatic people need to be in self-isolation at home until a negative test result and 24 hours symptom free. They may need to seek clearance from their own GP.
- Non-HIS symptomatic people should now stay at home until they have both received a negative test result and are no longer acutely unwell.
- HIS and non-HIS asymptomatic people do not need to stay home to wait for their test results unless otherwise advised by ARPHS

The pre-test symptomatic information sheet has been updated to reflect the above options. You will need to tick which option applies on the information sheet.

This information sheet is attached and can be found at the [COVID-19 Information HealthPathway](#) - under **Local Guidance > Patient Information: Information for People who are being tested for COVID-19 and Have Symptoms**.

The focus for testing this fortnight is testing anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, especially those at highest risk of exposure, and continuing to reduce barriers to access for Māori and Pacific communities in particular. **Please continue to use Clinical discretion to test anyone who isn't in this focused priority grouping.**

## 5. Nebuliser and Spirometry use in primary care in the Auckland region update

- There are a range of views about nebulisation in the context of COVID-19; NRHCC CTAG advice recommends a more cautious approach. Try to avoid using nebulisers in primary care. Instead use MDI's with spacers. If in exceptional circumstances nebulising cannot be avoided, NRHCC CTAG advice is to wear full PPE including a N95 mask that has been properly fitted.
- Spirometry should be offered at public Alert Level 1; however, defer or refer patients in the HIS groups to secondary services and defer those with acute respiratory symptoms. All spirometry should be carried out as per the [linked advice](#).

## 6. Anterior nasal swabbing versus deep nasal swabbing for Covid-19 clarification

The MOH advise oropharyngeal plus bilateral anterior nasal swabbing as an alternative to nasopharyngeal testing. There has been reference in MOH documents to oropharyngeal plus deep nasal swabbing. This should read in all instances as oropharyngeal plus bilateral anterior nasal swabbing.

[InformationforpeoplewhohaveCOVID19symptomsandarebeingtested17November2020.pdf](#)

## 7. Ministry of Health COVID-19 Q&As

- The Ministry of Health has recently updated the Question and Answers advice for primary health care workers to include responses to the following questions.
- What if I want to wear masks in a different way than you recommend?
- I understand the list of aerosol generating procedures has changed. Why is this, and what does this mean for me?
- What do public health units do if there is a case of COVID-19 in someone in my practice?

[Read more](#)

## 8. Ordering of PPE - clarification of new Onelink process

The new process of general practices and Urgent Care Clinics ordering PPE via Onelink is now available to use.

Until Monday 30th November 2020 you have the option of ordering through the new process which is Onelink, or continuing to order PPE via your current process.

From Monday 30th November all PPE should be ordered directly from Onelink through their website.

For instructions on the use of the Onelink website and to get your individual Practice login and password details please contact Kylie Corsbie: [Kylie.Corsbie@onelink.co.nz](mailto:Kylie.Corsbie@onelink.co.nz)

Practices will **NOT** need to set up an account or fill in a credit application form to place orders and receive PPE.

If have any problems accessing PPE or you are advised that Onelink has your practice listed as a Non Swabbing Clinic please email [suzie@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:suzie@aucklandpho.co.nz) and she will escalate the matter.

## 9. COVID-19 Message from the Director-General of Health – Dr Ashley Bloomfield

Please see attached.

## 10. COVID-19 Update – (as at 23 November 2020)

- Auckland is at Alert Level 1. See [here](#)
- Legally face coverings in Auckland must be worn, for more information see [here](#)
- The Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) has launched an Asian media **Campaign** (print, online and social media) with the tagline:



- There are two key messages to the **Campaign**:
  - Where you can get a COVID-19 test if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms
  - Where you can find support if you need to talk.
- See below translated **Campaign** posters to kindly share with your networks:
  - English [here](#)
  - Japanese [here](#)
  - Korean [here](#)
  - Punjabi [here](#)
  - Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese (both posters found in the shared link) [here](#)
  - Tagalog [here](#)
  - Hindi (note Hindi poster is almost ready, please go to ARPHS website [here](#) to access poster this week).

## 11. COVID-19 Other

- Visitor Care Manaaki Manuhiri programme closing 30 Nov 2020, see [here](#)
- Ministry of Social Development's new Emergency benefit for temporary visa holders applications, open 1 Dec 2020-28 Feb 2021, see [here](#)