

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV): Primary care quick reference guide

- Consider novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection in patients with fever and respiratory symptoms who recently travelled to Hubei province, in particular Wuhan, in China.
- Investigate and manage patients for respiratory illness using standard practices according to their clinical condition.
- For severe respiratory illness, transfer to your local hospital for clinical management, with prior discussion with the receiving team.
- To notify the Medical Officer of Health of a suspected case of 2019-nCoV, phone your local Public Health Unit on DHB switchboard and ask to speak to the Medical Officer of Health on duty.

Current Situation

The Ministry of Health is taking this evolving situation seriously and is working closely with other Government agencies, DHBs and emergency management teams throughout New Zealand, and with Australia. Up to date information is available from www.health.govt.nz/coronavirus

Identify Symptoms and Exposure History

Does the patient meet the following criteria? [See the Novel Coronavirus checklist.](#)

If the patient satisfies the triage checklist (reflecting the clinical and epidemiological criteria below), they are classified as a suspected case (NB They MUST meet the epidemiological criteria).

Epidemiological criteria

Travel to Hubei Province in China (particularly Wuhan) within the last 14 days

OR

Close contact¹ with a symptomatic confirmed case of 2019-nCoV infection within 14 days before onset of the case's illness

Clinical criteria

Fever or history of fever ($\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) and acute respiratory infection with at least one of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, cough, sore throat.

As the full clinical spectrum of illness is not known, clinical and public health judgement should also be used to determine the need for testing in patients who do not meet the clinical criteria above. The criteria will also be revised as required over time as more information emerges on the outbreak

¹ 'Close contact' is defined as:

- direct contact with the case or their body fluids or their laboratory specimens, or in the same room of a health care setting when an aerosol generating procedure is undertaken on the case, without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- living in the same household or household-like setting (e.g. in a hostel) as a 2019-nCoV patient
- A person who spent two hours or longer in the same room (such as a general practice or ED waiting room)
- Those seated within 2 rows either side of a symptomatic case on a flight, bus or train for two hours or longer
- Face-to-face (within 1 metre) contact for more than 15 minutes with the case in any other setting not listed above

including characteristics of transmission, incubation and infectivity period and geographical spread. Any update to these will be published at www.health.govt.nz/coronavirus

Caring for a patient who is a Suspected Case

Infection Prevention and Control

- Place a surgical mask on the patient
- Place patient in a single room
- Use **droplet** and **contact**-transmission precautions including wearing disposable, fluid-resistant gown or apron, gloves, surgical face mask and eye protection while reviewing the patient.

Clinical Care and Management

- Patients with suspected infection of novel coronavirus should be managed medically according to their symptoms and clinical state. They do NOT need to be hospitalised unless clinically indicated.
- After conducting a medical assessment, contact your local Public Health Unit and ask to speak to the Medical Officer of Health on duty.
- If the patient does require hospitalisation or you are unsure, discuss with the on-call medical team.
- If the patient does not require hospitalisation contact the Medical Officer of Health on duty who will provide advice on the exact specimens required for specialised testing to identify whether the patient has novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), the approved collection methods and equipment for collecting specimens and the protocols for handling, storage and transport to correct laboratory.

Please see www.health.govt.nz/coronavirus for detailed guidelines on the Interim Advice for Health Professionals: Novel Wuhan Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)