

20/2/2020: PPE for collection of samples for SARS-CoV-2 testing

Note, changes to this guide may be made as the situation evolves. Please refer to regular updates from the Ministry of Health and your local response groups

Viral testing of patients suspected of acute respiratory illness attributed to SARS-CoV-2 (formerly known as 2019-nCoV) will continue to be strictly limited. **It is important that your practice is prepared with all appropriate PPE** should a patient present who meets the MOH suspected case definition.

Patients should NOT be referred from the practice to a collection centre for specimen collection.

Clear advice from the MOH, regarding PPE for patient consultation (including specimen collection) can be found at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/ministry-of-health-novel-coronavirus-primary-care-quick-reference-guide-4feb2020.pdf>

Droplet and contact transmission precautions are advised when collecting samples, which includes the use of:

- Disposable, fluid resistant gown (long sleeved)
 - Gloves
 - Surgical mask
 - Eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield)
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- **All suspected cases where testing is being considered MUST be discussed with CDHB Microbiology Registrar or Clinical Microbiologist prior to sample collection.** Please phone 03 364 0640 and request the Clinical Microbiologist on call; travel history and clinical presentation must be available for discussion.

For any queries please contact:

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