

**Wednesday 18 March 2020 0800 hours**

**Important information for all GP teams, Community Pharmacists, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team**

### **Community-Based Testing Centre to Open**

As part of our Canterbury Health System response to COVID-19, from today, 18 March 2020, a Community-based Testing Centre (CBTC) will be in operation.

- The CBTC will be run by general practice from 0900 to 1700, Monday to Friday.
- It is not a drop-in centre, and it will **not** do any assessments. It is only for people who have a referral from their GP.
- It is a service offering screening for COVID-19 and the clinical team will stream patients referred to it.
- Patients may be referred for home isolation, their own GP (if further non-emergency input is needed), or hospital.
- The CBTC will accommodate an in-house triage service to supplement but not replace Healthline or provide front line clinical support to primary care providers.
- The CBTC will **not** act as a replacement GP surgery or act as a replacement to the Emergency Department.
- There will be no charge to patients at the point of care.
- Eight parking spaces have been set aside specifically for people using this facility and signage will be in place to assist people arriving for testing.

#### **How to Refer**

General Practitioners may wish to see and assess their patients or they can choose to refer suspect patients to the CBTC.

GPs can refer the patient to ring 0800 37 30 37 – the call will be triaged and an appointment will be booked if the patient meets the case definition. Pharmacists should refer patients to Healthline or their general practice.

Kind regards,

Dr Akshay Shukla  
(on behalf of Dr Phil Schroeder)  
Canterbury Primary Response Group  
[www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz](http://www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz)

Contact the **Primary Care Emergency Operations Centre** on:

[eoc@cprg.org.nz](mailto:eoc@cprg.org.nz) or ring

**(03) 375 7199 or 022 043 7162**

Your queries will be answered as soon as possible but please keep in mind the EOC is experiencing high demand.