

CDHB/CPRG **SARS-CoV-2** UPDATE Thursday 20 February 2020

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

The following advice on SARS-CoV-2 (formerly known as novel coronavirus 2019 or nCoV-2019 or COVID-19) to healthcare workers in Canterbury on infection prevention is current as of **20 February 2020** but will likely need to be updated as the situation changes. This latest update supersedes the previous update on the 03 February 2020.

Who to call if you have a suspected case

All suspected cases must be discussed / notified as below prior to collecting specimens for SARS-CoV-2 testing.

1. For patients requiring hospital admission or assessment, contact the on-call CDHB Infectious Diseases Physician **03 378 6966** and notify the Medical Officer of Health.
2. For patients not requiring hospital admission or assessment, contact the on-call CDHB Clinical Microbiologist **03 364 0640** and notify the Medical Officer of Health.

Infection Prevention & Control Measures

For all patients presenting to general practice with fever and respiratory symptoms AND a history of travel to Mainland China in the 14 days prior to symptom onset OR who have had contact with a person with confirmed or suspected SARS-CoV-2 within the 14 days prior to symptom onset:

- Where possible, assess potential cases in the patient's car or a designated area away from the patient waiting room. Surfaces in side rooms or designated areas used for assessment should be wiped down with soap and water followed by a surface disinfectant before further use.
- Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask while in public areas (ideally on arrival to the practice).
- Contact and droplet precautions (with a surgical mask and eye protection – i.e. goggles or face visor) are recommended by the WHO for patients with confirmed or suspected SARS-CoV-2.
- Discuss testing with the Clinical Microbiologist (or Infectious Disease Physician on-call if patient requires referral to hospital).
- Nebulisers should be avoided.
- For instructions on specimen collection /swab types and personal protective equipment during collection see the accompanying single-sided documents (one on PPE, one on specimen collection). Note the CDHB Clinical Microbiologist **must** be called prior to specimen collection on **03 364 0640**.

Staff returning from travel from Mainland China (additional NZ border measures)

Staff returning to NZ following travel to anywhere in Mainland China, or any staff who have had exposure to a confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 will be expected to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from the time they left Mainland China or were exposed to novel coronavirus.

General Practice staff with questions should contact the on-call CDHB Clinical Microbiologist **03 364 0640** or ID Physician for advice **03 378 6966**.

For updated info and resources for Canterbury Primary and Community care visit the CPRG website:

www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz

General updates are available on the Ministry of Health website:

www.health.govt.nz/coronavirus

Kind regards,

Dr Phil Schroeder, Canterbury Primary Response Group

www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz