

**Friday 27 March 2020 1500 hours**

**Important information for all General Practices, Community Pharmacies, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team**

### **Swabbing/Testing**

The case definition for purposes of obtaining a swab have not changed. In summary you need either:

1. Travel over the last 14 days and developing cough, sore throat, shortness of breath and/or fever, OR
2. Known contact in the last 14 days with a person with COVID-19 (**either tested positive, or symptomatic after exposure to COVID-19**) and displaying the above symptoms.

Swabs are a limited resource and we need to be careful to use them in line with advice to ensure adequate supply. If you feel you need to swab an individual that does not meet the case criteria, this can only be done after permission by the Medical Officer of Health. This permission will not be granted for asymptomatic patients.

Health care workers with moderate to severe respiratory symptoms without any travel or known contacts may be a candidate for testing but we would recommend you discuss first with the Medical Officer of Health.

If you are going to undertake testing in primary care, please refer to [Community HealthPathways > COVID-19 > Requests](#) under testing.

### **Community-based Assessment Centres (CBACs)**

- Preparations for CBACs in additional locations are progressing well. There is currently a CBAC in central Christchurch and Ashburton.

### **Prescribing**

- Due to supply chain issues, prescribers are asked not to issue multiple scripts for patients.

### **PPE**

- Interim guidance to support when and how to use PPE is now available on [Community HealthPathways > COVID-19 > Requests](#).
- Request form to replenish stocks to assess up to 25 patients is available via the [CPRG website](#).
- Supplies will be in line with what is appropriate for your particular environment.

### **General Practice Care**

- Continue childhood immunisations and other important routine general practice care.
- Consider a funded Acute Plan for high risk people to document the clinician recommended ceiling of care, and if offered, whether patients want full active or quality of life treatments.

### **COVID-19 Queries**

- For all non-urgent COVID-19 related queries, email [eoc@cprg.org.nz](mailto:eoc@cprg.org.nz). Clinical queries will be answered by a clinician within a day.

### **Opioid Substitution COVID-19 Guidelines**

- There are new guidelines with some adaptations to the protocols for COVID-19; see [Community HealthPathways > COVID-19 > Information](#).

Kind regards,

Vince Barry  
Primary EOC Controller  
Canterbury Primary Response Group

[www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz](http://www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz)