

Wednesday 12th August 2020 0800 hours

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

We now need to activate around the possibility of community spread of COVID-19. This is an escalation of the ongoing pandemic response and is a priority in the health system. It is essential we find and control any spread.

Who needs testing?

- Test all people **with symptoms** consistent with COVID-19. Asymptomatic people who are not border workers should not be tested at this stage.
- Test all workers associated with the **border** (including staff at airport, isolation facilities, ports, including ground staff who interact with vessel crews). These can be asymptomatic tests.
- Testing in children can be considered if you think a nasopharyngeal swab will be tolerated. Alternatively, you could offer oropharyngeal swab with deep nares.

What we will be doing

- Standing up the Orchard Road facility that we used for the surveillance testing last Saturday. This will be initially aimed at border workers to make sure we get this group of people tested. This will then transition to a drive-through public facility.
- Extending hours at Whānau Ora CBAC to 9-5 with additional staff to manage overflow. No referral required.
- Planning for further capacity if required.

What we need you to do

- The most efficient capacity we have in our system is through general practice swabbing. We are asking you to please aim to flex up your swabbing capacity to a level you feel you can manage. This is a priority for the health system.
- If each of the 100+ swabbing practices swab 5-10 symptomatic patients, this gives us 500-1000 swabs, which is more efficient than any CBAC.
- We will be supporting this by increasing numbers of swabs out to practices and increasing frequency of PPE deliveries.
- The most efficient way to swab in a practice is to bring people to the carpark or swabbing area at a designated time and swabbing them in a group. Obviously, you will have your own systems set up.
- Overflow can be diverted to Whānau Ora CBAC on Pages Road without referral, or patients can be referred via ERMS to the smaller CBAC located at Pegasus/24 Hour Surgery carpark.

Kind regards,

Deborah Callahan
COVID Response EOC Manager

Dr Hannah Gordon
Clinical Lead

Akizumi Tominari
Acting Pharmacy Lead



www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz