

Thursday 10th September 2020 1600 hours

Important information for all General Practices – Please share this with everyone in your team as appropriate

Testing Update

Another week, another testing update!

The latest communication from the Ministry of Health around asymptomatic testing is included in this update. Remembering who should and should not be offered testing is becoming very complex.

Based on the statement, “No one who requests a test should be turned away,” if someone requests a test and you have the capacity to do so, you can offer testing or advise them to attend a testing centre. This includes people without symptoms.

Some key notes:

- This [Ministry of Health page](#) outlines the latest priority groups in both symptomatic people and asymptomatic people.
- We are not actively promoting asymptomatic testing, but people should not be declined if they request a test.
- Continue to prioritise testing in people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, particularly people who meet HIS criteria.
- Testing is free. The only exception to this is when tests are performed as a requirement prior to overseas travel (see below).
- We ask that you **do not** perform large scale testing for workplaces on request. Please contact us if you receive such requests: eoc@cprg.org.nz.
- Please be aware that the current guidance is in place for the next two to three weeks, however, it has been agreed locally that beyond this time asymptomatic testing will remain available to people from the Māori and Pasifika communities, to avoid confused messaging and barriers to testing.

HealthPathways has been updated to reflect these changes.

Travel Testing

- People who require a test prior to travelling overseas will have to pay for their test. This is the only type of test that should carry a charge to the patient. The process for charging patients is available on [Community HealthPathways > COVID-19 Requests and Local Processes](#) in the Testing and Self-isolation section.
- Please make sure you complete any documentation that is required by the patient for travel. The laboratory are not able to add this to results.

Quick Reminder from Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)

- Using hand sanitisers on gloves is not good practice. You should change your gloves and hand sanitise between changes.

Kind regards,

Deborah Callahan
Primary EOC Manager

Drs Hannah Gordon & Kim Burgess
Clinical Leads

Aki Tominari
Pharmacy Lead

P.S. **Testing centres** are open at the following locations – no referrals required:

- Whānau Ora CBAC – 250 Pages Road, 9am-4pm, 7 days a week until further notice
- 174 Orchard Road CBAC – 9am-4pm, 7 days a week until further notice
- Ashburton Hospital CBAC – 28 Elizabeth Street, 10am-2pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

