

19th October 2020 1300 hrs

Important information for all *General Practices, Community Pharmacies* – Please share this with everyone in your team

New addition to priority groups for testing

The testing strategy remains the same apart from a new addition to the priority testing groups. Pregnant and recently pregnant women should be a priority for symptomatic testing and can be offered opportunistic asymptomatic testing.

Anyone who requests testing can still be offered a test or directed to a testing centre.

Travel testing

We expect that with the easing of some travel options out of NZ we may see an increase in the number of people requesting a Covid test prior to travelling overseas. A reminder that individuals will have to pay for their test if required for travel - this is the only type of test that should carry a charge to the patient. The process for charging patients is available in the 'Testing and Self-isolation' section of [Community HealthPathways > COVID-19 Requests and Local Processes](#).

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. Most travellers require a test within 72 hours of departure. If you are unable to perform the test and provide notification of results in the required format within the necessary timeframe, please refer your patient to one of the Urgent Care facilities as they are set up for charging and turning results around over the weekend (advice is to phone ahead as appointments may be required).

Examples of discrimination against individuals working at the border

It has come to our attention that people working at isolation facilities and at the border are occasionally experiencing discriminatory behaviour as a result of public perceptions of risk of covid. This can include being denied access to institutions, or their family/whānau experiencing difficulty in their workplace or education facility.

We ask that you are vigilant for this and opportunistically check in with patients who might be affected. Also, please report any cases to CPRG (EOC@cprg.org.nz) as the CDHB are gathering examples to be aggregated for addressing on a regional and national scale.

How well have we done ?

In the 15 weeks from 29 June to 11 October **51,563 COVID swabs** have been taken across Canterbury.

- ✓ 50.1% were by general practice or urgent care teams
- ✓ 33.4% were in managed isolation facilities (MIFs) or CDHB (hospital staff)
- ✓ 16.5% were in CBACs and primary care managed border testing (ports/airport based staff)

General practice teams continue to play a significant role in the testing programme for this pandemic. THANK YOU to all team members for your ongoing contribution in this way.

CBAC Hours – Monday 26 October (Labour day)

With the public holiday on Monday (26/10/20) both Orchard Road and Whanau Ora CBACs will remain open normal hours (9.00am to 4.00pm)

Kind regards,

Martin Carrell
Response Manager

Drs Hannah Gordon & Kim Burgess
GP Clinical Leads

Aki Tominari
Pharmacy Lead

www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz

