

**28th October 2020 1500 hrs**

**Important information for all *General Practice teams* – Please share this with everyone in your team**

This update is just a reminder of some processes. We have had a few reports of some inconsistencies across primary care, which is understandable at this stage in the piece. Please take note of this information and make sure that your practice is following the correct processes.

### **Swabbing**

- The only swabs that carry a charge are those done for pre-travel purposes (more information on this below). Anyone requesting a swab, regardless of symptoms, can be swabbed.
- Border workers or family members of border workers may present for asymptomatic swabbing. Please support this to take place. If you do not have capacity to do these swabs, please direct them to the testing centres outlined below.
- Please continue to encourage swabbing of **all** people who present with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. (The local policy for children is available on HealthPathways [COVID-19 Requests and Local Processes](#)).
- Remember that the last two sentinel community cases were people who were swabbed with symptoms in primary care. The first case was not HIS. Please remind all staff involved in triaging patients of the importance of remaining vigilant. If you are unable to offer swabbing, please direct people to the testing centres outlined below.
- This link provides the latest guidance around priority groups we should be supporting to access testing. ([Testing guidance](#))

### **COVID-19 Community Based Testing Centres (CBACs):**

- **Orchard Road CBAC (near Airport), [174 Orchard Road, \(Off Harewood Road\), Christchurch.](#)**  
Open 9am-4pm, 7 days a week. (Walk-in/no referral required).
- **Whānau Ora Community Clinic CBAC (Wainoni), [250 Pages Road, Wainoni, Christchurch.](#)**  
Open 9am-4pm, 7 days a week. (Walk-in/no referral required)
- **Ashburton Hospital site CBAC - [28 Elizabeth Street, Ashburton hospital site,](#)**  
Open 10am-2pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday only. (Walk-in/no referral required)

### **Pre-travel testing**

There have been a number of issues arising out of pre-travel testing. If you are providing this service, it is essential that you follow the correct process and provide all of the documentation required. If you are unable to complete all of these steps, please ask the patient to book an appointment with one of the urgent care facilities.

1. Establish where the person is travelling to and what the requirements are for that country. Most countries require a test to be done within 72 hours of travel.
2. Note on the lab form that the test is required for travel and the destination country.
3. Results should be available within 48 hours. Travel tests will not be expedited through the labs. Explain to the patient that they need to book the test at the right time for them to get their results (at least 48 hours before travel, plus GP processing time).

4. Make sure that you can chase up the result, print it off and give a copy of the result to the patient with a covering letter (sample template attached) in time for them to travel. Check that the documentation matches the requirement for that country. The labs are not able to annotate results. Please DO NOT contact CHL to do this!

If you are unable to do this (e.g. If the result will come back over a weekend) please do not perform the test. Ask the patient to phone ahead and book an appointment with an urgent care clinic.

5. Charges: \$80+GST lab fee will be invoiced to your practice on receipt of the swab; Plus your practice fee for performing the test and processing the result.

A reminder that the swab testing is being performed at an [IANZ accredited laboratory](#) (Canterbury Health Laboratories).

### **Thank you**

Thank you for your individual and team efforts which together continue to make a significant contribution to the Covid response across Canterbury.

Kind regards,

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Pharmacy Lead

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