COVID-19 Assessment and testing pathway for symptomatic resident in Residential facilities (RF) and Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF)

Isolate the resident in his/her room. Resident’s GP or Medical Director to perform risk assessment

A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath);

OR

A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset;

Clinical judgement should be employed when assessing these criteria.

Clinicians should be alert to the possibility of atypical presentations in older patients and those who are immunocompromised, for example low temperature rather than fever.

A higher index of suspicion is needed if there is a COVID-19 positive case or contact in the RCF/LTCF.

Check if there are any other residents with COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. outbreak) in the RF/LTCF

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Criteria not met:
Resident has some symptoms of respiratory tract infection but doesn’t meet the above criteria

Unless assessment at hospital is indicated, the resident should remain isolated from other residents within the facility for a minimum of 14 days from symptom onset, the last 5 of which they should be without fever.

Please refer to information leaflets on patient self-isolation.

Meets criteria

Check if there are any other residents with COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. outbreak) in the RF/LTCF

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No other cases

Arrange COVID-19 testing:
A. If resident can attend a community testing site, they should be referred by a GP via Healthlink, as per Telephone assessment and testing pathway for patients who phone GP and healthcare settings other than receiving hospitals
B. If resident is unable to attend a community testing site, testing should be managed according to National Ambulance Service document on: COVID-19 Testing in Residential Settings

Unless assessment at hospital is indicated, isolate the resident, pending results:
• If positive, advise resident to self isolate for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of symptoms, the last 5 days of which should be without fever.
• If not detected: Advise resident to self isolate until 48 hours after resolution of symptoms.

Adopt Infection Prevention and Control precautions as per Preliminary COVID-19 IPC Guidance including Outbreak Control in Residential Care Facilities and Similar Units.

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Yes other suspected cases

Testing should be managed through NAS according to the NAS document on COVID-19 Testing in Residential Settings.
• If multiple residents / potential cluster are identified within a unit, this should be identified within the referring email to NAS
• Notify Public Health of outbreaks within unit as per Preliminary COVID-19 IPC Guidance including Outbreak Control in Residential Care Facilities and Similar Units
• Following confirmation of a COVID-19 positive diagnosis within the unit, it is assumed that all residents presenting with symptoms are COVID-19 positive. Multiple re-referrals to NAS for potential COVID cases should be avoided

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