COVID-19 Telephone assessment and testing pathway for patients who phone general practice and healthcare settings other than receiving hospitals

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

**No:** Some RTI symptoms present but doesn’t meet the criteria above

**YES**

Meets criteria above and is in one of the following categories:
- Close contacts of a confirmed case.
- HCW who are front facing/have regular patient contact.
- Groups most at risk of severe infection such as persons with ischaemic heart disease, hypertension, cerebrovascular disease, Type II diabetes, obesity, active malignancy in last 5 years, chronic lung disease, chronic renal disease, chronic liver disease.
- Household contacts of HCWs and of at-risk groups above.
- Staff and residents of nursing homes and other residential care settings and those in direct provision, homeless, roma and travelling community settings where symptom management is difficult.
- Prison staff and inmates where it may be difficult to implement self-isolation advice.
- Pregnant women to ensure they can be managed safely in hospital, minimising the risk of spread in the maternity hospital.

**UNLESS assessment at hospital is indicated:**
- Advise patient to stay at home and self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of symptoms, the last 5 days of which they should be without fever. Refer to the Patient information sheet for self-isolation. If patient is a healthcare worker, HCW must self-isolate for 14 days. A derogation from management may be given to return to work before the 14 day period under passive self-monitoring only. Must be symptom free for 48 hours prior to return to work.
- Household contacts should also restrict their movements for 14 days after the case went into self-isolation. Refer to the information leaflet on Advice for people who share the same home with someone who has or may have COVID-19. If household contacts are healthcare workers they must inform their manager. A derogation from management may be given to return to work before the 14 day period under passive self-monitoring only.

**YES**

- Arrange COVID-19 testing using Healthlink.
- If you do not currently have access to Healthlink, click here to apply
- Advise the patient who to contact if symptoms are worsening, including out-of-hours

**UNLESS assessment at hospital is indicated:**
- Advise patient to stay at home and self-isolate pending test results
- **IF positive:** Advise patient to self isolate for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of symptoms, the last 5 days of which should be without fever. See Patient information sheet for self-isolation.
- Household contacts should also restrict their movements for 14 days after the case went into self-isolation. Refer to the information leaflet on Advice for people who share the same home with someone who has or may have COVID-19. If household contacts are healthcare workers they must inform their manager. Their manager may apply a derogation for their return to work under passive self-monitoring until results available.
- **If not detected:** Advise patient to self isolate until 48 hours after resolution of symptoms. Household contacts no longer need to restrict their movements.