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

1. A patient with acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, fever, shortness of breath) **AND** with no other aetiology that fully explains the clinical presentation

Clinical judgement should be applied in application of these criteria to determine who requires testing.

As per NPHET recommendation of 14/05/2020, all close contacts\(^1\) of a confirmed case will be tested for COVID-19 at **DAY 0** (Date identified as a contact) and **DAY 7** (7 days after last exposure to a confirmed case). The monitoring and testing of contacts is being carried out by the contact management programme and Public Health Departments. **There is now no need for GPs to arrange for testing of contacts of confirmed cases.** For further information on contact tracing, see [here](#).

\(^1\) Close contact: <2 metres face-to-face contact for greater than 15 minutes

---

**NO**

Some RTI symptoms present but doesn’t meet the criteria above

- 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, they 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, however they must be symptom free for 48 hours prior to return to work.
  - The whole population is being asked to [stay at home](#), where possible.

---

**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](#).
  - **If not detected:** Advise patient to self isolate until 48 hours after resolution of symptoms.
  - The whole population are still asked to [stay at home](#), where possible.