



COVID-19 Telephone assessment and testing pathway for patients (aged 13 years and older) 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)

OR

2. Sudden onset of anosmia¹, ageusia² or dysgeusia³

AND with no other aetiology that fully explains the clinical presentation

Please note other symptoms that are less common may include fatigue, sore throat, nasal congestion, headaches, muscle/joint pain, nausea or vomiting, diarrhoea, chills/dizziness, different types of skin rash, conjunctivitis. Symptoms of severe COVID-19 disease may include shortness of breath, loss of appetite, confusion, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, high temperature (above 38 °C). Clinical judgement should be applied in application of these criteria to determine who requires testing.

As per NPHET recommendation of 4/2/2021, all close contacts of a confirmed case will be tested for COVID-19 at **DAY 0** (Date identified as a contact) and **DAY 10** (FULL 10 days after last exposure to a confirmed case). Restriction of movements can end on receipt of a “not detected” result from the Day 10 test. 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 Loss of sense of smell; ² Loss of sense of taste; ³ Distortion of sense of taste

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 48 hours from the resolution of symptoms.
- If patient is a healthcare worker, they may return to work under passive self-monitoring, however they must be symptom free for 48 hours prior to return to work.
- Everyone is asked to adhere to [Public Health advice](#) on reducing their contacts and preventing infection.

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, even if the patient is vaccinated.
- The whole household must [restrict movements](#) until the results of the test are known.
- **If positive:** Advise patient to self isolate for a minimum of 10 FULL days from the onset of symptoms, the last 5 days of which should be without fever.
- **If not detected:** Advise patient to self isolate until 48 hours after resolution of symptoms.
- Everyone is asked to adhere to [Public Health advice](#) on reducing their contacts and preventing infection.