



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

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

As per NPHE recommendation of 14/05/2020, all close contacts 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 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.
- 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 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.