

COVID-19 Primary Care Algorithm

Case Definitions

Suspected Case (under investigation)

The patient is classified as a suspect case if they satisfy **both** the epidemiological and clinical criteria.

Epidemiological Criteria

Travel to or from **countries or areas of concern** within 14 days before onset of illness(excluding airport transit)
 OR
 Close contact in 14 days before onset of illness with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection.

Clinical Criteria

Fever or history of fever and acute respiratory infection with at least one of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat.

Probable Case

A suspect case where COVID-19 is very likely because no other cause of severe illness has been found (simplified)

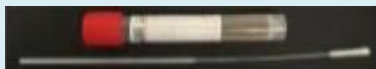
Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19

NOTE: Countries or areas of concern are listed on Ministry of Health [COVID-19 case definition page](#)

Specimen Collection for patients NOT requiring hospitalisation – Discuss with Public Health

- Use droplet precautions i.e. fluid resistant gown, gloves, eye protection and a surgical mask
- Using 2 separate **VIRAL nasopharyngeal swabs** do a flocked nasopharyngeal swab and a viral throat swab. Both can be combined in a single Virus Transport Medium (VTM red top) tube.

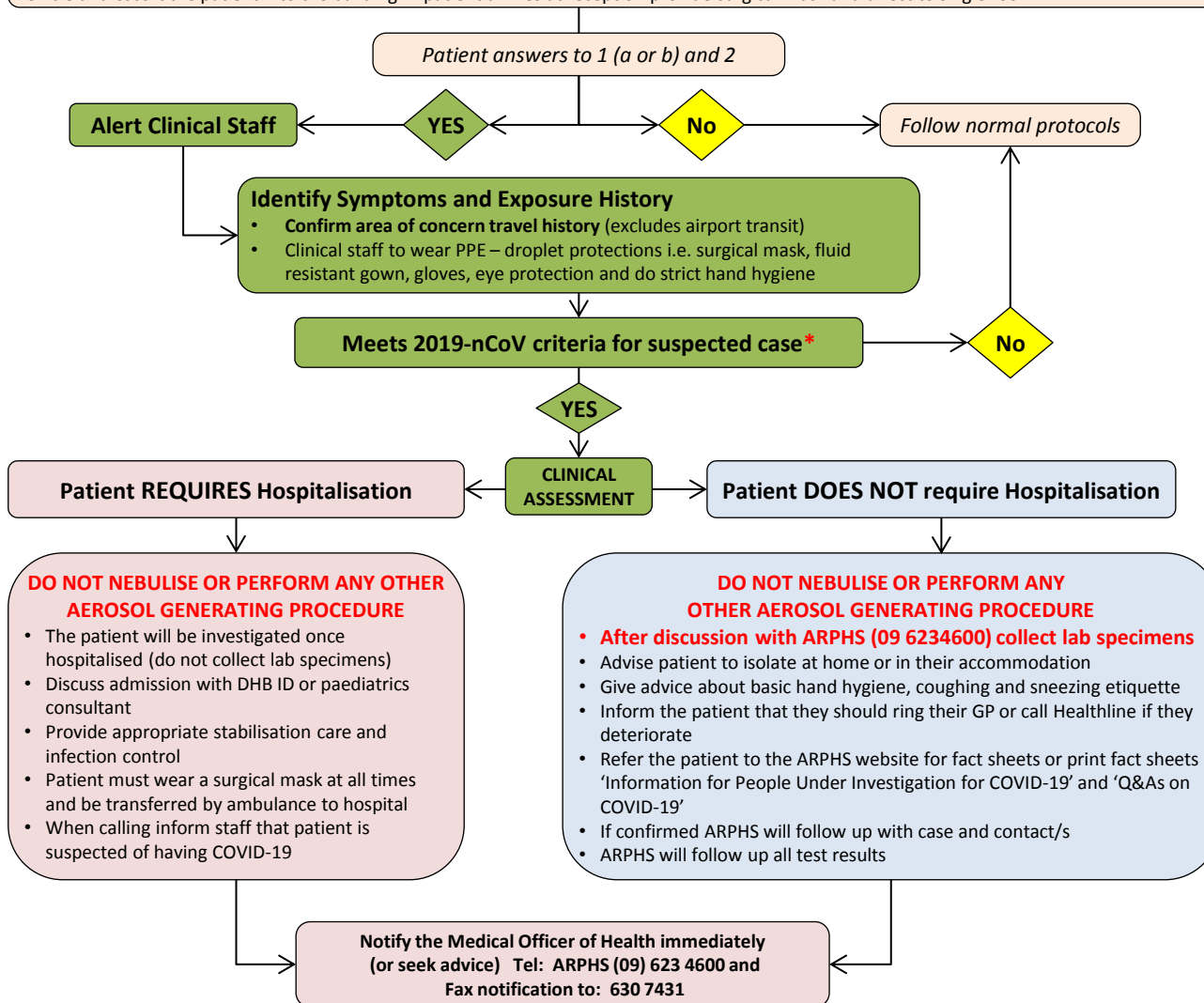


- **On the Laboratory Request Form write:**
- Write suspected COVID-19 for Respiratory Panel PCR
- Authorised by ARPHS (name of Medical Officer).
- Include clinical details and travel history
- **Safely remove and dispose of PPE after specimen collection and perform hand hygiene**

Patient phones for appointment or arrives at practice – RECEPTION/NURSE TRIAGE

1. **Ask the patient about exposures:** a) Have you had **overseas travel** (excluding airport transit) in the 14 days before onset of illness? **CONFIRM TRAVEL TO COUNTRIES OR AREA OF CONCERN** OR b) Have you had close contact with confirmed COVID-19 in the 14 days before onset of illness?
2. **Ask the patient about symptoms:** Do you have a fever or have you had a fever and cough, shortness or breath, or a sore throat?

NOTE: ONLY PATIENTS WITH SYMPTOMS NEED A MASK AND ISOLATION: If the patient is waiting in their car, practice staff can take mask to vehicle and escort the patient into the building. If patient arrives at reception provide surgical mask and direct to single room.



*As the full clinical spectrum of illness is not known, clinical and public health judgement should also be used to determine the need for testing in patients who do not meet the clinical criteria above

COVID-19 CASE DEFINITION

Countries or Areas of Concern

Note: Areas of concern will continue to change, refer to the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Case Definition webpage](#) for the latest countries

Travel Category	Country (excludes airport transit)	Self-isolation expectation	No fever or respiratory symptoms	Has a fever or respiratory symptoms
1a	Mainland China Iran	Yes, for 14 days after exiting the 'category 1' country	No need to isolate, mask or test the patient Manage presenting complaint Complete 14 days self-isolation in all cases	Mask & isolate patient and assess as per algorithm Swab and isolate at home awaiting results Complete 14 days self-isolation in all cases
1b	Northern Italy Republic of Korea	As above	As above	As above
2	Hong Kong Italy-(other than Northern) Japan Singapore Thailand	Not as a routine for asymptomatic travellers	No need to isolate, mask or test the patient Manage presenting complaint No need for self-isolation once leaves	Mask & isolate patient and assess as per algorithm Swab and isolate at home awaiting results

NOTES

If you think the patient may have an atypical presentation of COVID-19 then mask, isolate, use PPE and clinically assess as a suspected case.

Isolate means the patient should be placed in a **single room** and not sit in the waiting area.