

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY - 17 MARCH 2020

### KEY UPDATES:

- The Ministry of Health has updated the [case definition](#) for COVID -19.
- Primary care practitioners are now no longer required to discuss a case with Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) prior to testing.
- A nasopharyngeal swab only is required for testing in the community (ie Oropharyngeal/throat swabs are no longer needed)
- It is imperative to notify ARPHS of the suspect case using the [notification form](#) on the ARPHS webpage. Please fax the notification form to 09 630 7431 immediately <sup>1</sup>. (This process will be updated in the near future)
- Provision of medical advice and care for the patient is the responsibility of the notifying practitioner.
- At present, ARPHS is informing all notified primary care patients of their results (positive and negative) whilst a review is being undertaken. An update on the process will follow.
- An updated Primary Care Algorithm has been published today.
- Please keep updated in the rapidly changing environment and check frequently that your resources are up to date.

[Ministry of Health NZ COVID-19](#)

[Auckland Regional Public Health Service](#)

[World Health Organisation COVID-19](#)

[Auckland Regional Health Pathways](#)

<sup>1</sup>The Health Act 1956 requires health professionals to notify the Medical Officer of Health on suspicion of a notifiable disease, and this obligation continues.