

Information for people who are being tested for COVID-19 and have symptoms

<p>Why should I be tested?</p>	<p>You are being tested because you have symptoms that could be COVID-19. The symptoms you have can also be caused by many other viruses, like influenza (flu).</p>
<p>What happens if I agree to be tested for COVID-19 today?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will be asked to fill out a form or answer questions including your contact details, your living circumstances, and, if you are employed, about your role in your workplace. A swab will be taken from the back of your nose or throat; this can be a bit uncomfortable. Results are usually back within 1-3 days. If you have not received notification of your result after 5 days, please contact your GP or primary care provider.
<p>Do I need to be in isolation while I wait for my results?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will be advised if you need to self-isolate while waiting for your test results. This depends on a number of things, including what COVID-19 response level we are in or if you have been told by public health that you are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19. <p>[Provider please tick appropriate option:]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> You need to self-isolate – please follow the instructions you have been given <input type="checkbox"/> You need to stay at home until you have a negative test result and are no longer unwell. You do not need to be in self-isolation <input type="checkbox"/> You need to stay at home while you are unwell, but don't need to be in self-isolation
<p>What happens next if my result is positive?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) will call you to let you know. The Public Health Service will talk with you more about what this means for you, including how long you will need to stay in isolation. Public Health will discuss isolation arrangements for you and your household contacts (usually your family). You will be required to isolate in a managed facility unless other suitable arrangements are approved by the Medical Officer of Health. You will be supported to access any extra help you need. You will be asked about all the people you have had contact with recently and some of those people will be asked to stay at home (in self-isolation) in case they become unwell too. Their self-isolation will be for at least 14 days from the last day you spent time with them. All close contacts will be required to be tested and to isolate. The Public Health Service will work together with you and your household to decide where the most suitable place is for your household close contacts to isolate.

<p><i>What happens next if my result is negative?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should be notified via text message or a phone call. The message will direct you to a link for further instructions. For most people, a negative result means you should stay home until you have been symptom free for at least 24 hours so you don't pass on the illness you have to others. Talk with your GP about when you are able to return to work. Some people who have a negative result may need to stay in self-isolation for a longer period of time. For example: if you have been told by public health you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, you will need to complete 14 days of self-isolation. This is 14 days from your last contact with the person confirmed as having COVID-19. You may also be asked to have further COVID-19 testing. ARPHS' website has further information about when staying in isolation for longer is necessary. If in doubt, phone your GP or ring the COVID-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453.
<p><i>If my test is negative, does that mean I can't get COVID-19 in the future?</i></p>	<p>No. If you become unwell again with symptoms that could be COVID-19, you should be tested again.</p>
<p><i>What should I do if I start feeling more unwell?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you feel worse, you should phone your GP or ring the COVID-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453. Healthline is a free 24/7 service with interpreters available. You need to let them know you have already been tested for COVID-19. Call 111 for an ambulance if you have difficulty breathing, are severely unwell or it is an emergency. Tell them that you are awaiting a COVID-19 swab result.
<p><i>What happens to the information collected about me?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your information will be shared with those who are monitoring and managing COVID-19 in our community. This may include your GP, Public Health, the Ministry of Health, your employer and your whānau. This is to help activities such as contact tracing to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We will only use and disclose your personal information if that is permitted by law. You have the right to access and correct your information.
<p><i>Where can I go for more advice?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For COVID-19 health advice and information, call the COVID-19 Healthline 0800 358 5453. For other health advice call Healthline on 0800 611 116. Healthline operates 24/7 and interpreters are available. Note, Healthline will NOT be able to access your results. You can get more information from Auckland Regional Public Health Service: www.arphs.health.nz/covid-19/