



Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Health Professional Advice



- Consider novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection in patients with fever and respiratory symptoms or sore throat who recently travelled to mainland China.
- For severe illness, contact DHB Infectious Diseases Specialist to arrange admission via ambulance.
- Call ARPHS on 09 623 4600 24 hours/day to discuss all notifications and then fax completed [notification form](#) to 09 630 7431.

Current Situation

- There is an outbreak of a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) originating in Wuhan, Hubei, China
- Cases have been exported, there is evidence of human-to-human transmission, and some healthcare workers have been infected. The case-fatality rate is currently ~2%
- The incubation period is currently considered to be 2-14 days from time of exposure
- A case is considered as potentially infectious 48 hours prior to developing symptoms, while symptomatic and until symptom-free for 24 hours

Identify Symptoms and Exposure History

Does the patient meet the following criteria for a suspect case*?

Epidemiological criteria

Travel to or from (including transit through) mainland China within 14 days before onset of illness

OR

Close contact (refer close contact section) in 14 days before onset of illness with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV 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

*Case definitions may change. Please see the Ministry of Health website for the latest case definition

[Ministry of Health](#)

If the patient meets the epidemiological criteria, but has no illness, ask them to self-isolate at home, and to call dedicated coronavirus line on 0800 358 5453 or their doctor if they develop symptoms.

Action for Patients Who Meet Case Definition:

Personal Protection

- Place a surgical mask on the patient if they have not presented wearing one
- Place the patient in a single room with a closed door
- When reviewing the patient use **standard** plus **contact** plus **droplet** precautions including a disposable fluid resistant gown, gloves, surgical or N95 mask (if available), and eye protection
- Ensure that PPE is removed and disposed of safely. Perform hand hygiene
- **Avoid use of nebulisers or other aerosol generating procedures.**

MILD ILLNESS

- **Discuss and notify with ARPHS Medical Officer of Health (09 6234600)**

If it is decided that the patient **does not** require hospitalisation:

- *Do viral upper respiratory swabs; both nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal (throat), using a flocked swab in a red viral tube. Both swabs can be placed in the same tube. Put the travel history and clinical details on the lab request form including onset date and acknowledge case has been discussed with Public Health*

MODERATE TO SEVERE ILLNESS

If it is decided that the patient **does** require hospitalisation:

- Phone DHB Infectious Diseases consultant
- Arrange transfer via ambulance.
- Inform admitting/ED of referral prior to patient arrival
- Notify ARPHS Medical Officer of Health (09 623 4600)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give fact sheets to the patient and contacts Link to Novel Coronavirus ARPHS page • Give verbal advice on when to seek further medical care • Ongoing patient monitoring and advice regarding self-isolation cares are essential by primary care both whilst the case status is under investigation and if a confirmed case • Negative results must be conveyed to the patient by the primary care practitioner • Ongoing self-isolation may be needed despite a negative nCoV result if indicated by positive results from other diagnostic tests 	
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Cleaning

After the patient has left, carry out a thorough clean of the room. The cleaning staff should follow standard, contact droplet precautions. Wipe down high touch surfaces with disinfectant wipes (eg Clinell Universal Wipes), ensure PPE is disposed of safely and appropriately in a closed Biohazard bin and avoid using the room for at least 15 minutes.

Close Contact Definition in Primary Care

Any individual who has been in contact with a case while the case is infectious (48 hours prior to symptoms until symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours) either by:

- Direct contact with the case or their body fluids or their laboratory specimens, or in the same room in a health care setting when an aerosol generating procedure is undertaken on the case, without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Living in the same household or household-like setting (e.g. in a hostel) as a case
- Having spent two hours or longer in the same room (such as a general practice or ED waiting room) as a case
- Having been face-to-face within one metre or less of the case for more than 15 minutes in any other setting not listed above



Practice Points

- Please display clear signage outside doors, update phone messages and practice websites.

[Link to ARPHS signage](#)

and

[Link to Ministry of Health poster](#)

Where to get further advice

[Auckland Regional Public Health Service website](#)

[Ministry of Health NZ Coronavirus](#)

[Ministry of Education Coronavirus](#)

[Advice for travellers](#)

[World Health Organisation Coronavirus](#)