



TB Contact Tracing

Pathlab have received several Quantiferon Gold (QFG) requests in the past couple of days in patients who have been “suspected contacts” of the identified TB cases in Kāwhia.

Such cases should always be discussed in the first instance with the Public Health department. They will then carry out a risk assessment.

The Medical Officer of Health will want to know:

- Name(s), NHI and contact details of people supposedly exposed to TB.
- Whether supposedly exposed people have any symptoms that the GP thinks may be suggestive of TB.
- Name(s) of people supposedly with infectious (untreated pulmonary TB) to whom they were exposed.
- Circumstances of exposure:
 - Date(s)
 - Place, particularly whether indoors
 - Duration

Pathlab will **not** accept QFG/Mantoux requests directly from GPs for the purposes of TB contact tracing without the documented approval of the Medical Officer of Health. Such practice simply undermines and confuses the Public Health response to such events.

If testing is approved by Public Health then there will be no charge to the patient.

Please get in touch with Pathlab or one of the Medical Officers of Health if there are any questions pertaining to this update.

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