

To: Waikato GP's  
From: Pathlab Waikato & Waikato hospital laboratory  
12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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# COVID-19 REQUEST FORMS

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Currently a variety of COVID request forms are in existence – CBAC, sentinel investigation etc. This 'old stock' of COVID request forms do not have all the relevant information on it e.g. GP / GP practice information, hence results cannot be sent to the relevant clinician.

So please:

- **Remove all 'old stock' of COVID request forms**
- All COVID-19 requests should now be made on the usual GP generated request form and **must state** whether patient is Asymptomatic or Symptomatic (details of symptoms are not required).

Please see request form / swab requirements as follows:

**Each swab/request form must be individually bagged** as some testing is done at Waikato hospital laboratory and some testing is done at Pathlab.

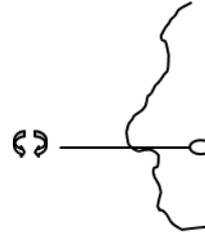
| Test  | Requirement         | Notes   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| COVID-19  | Nasopharyngeal swab | Separate request form<br>Send sample/form in own bag<br>Label bag appropriately: COVID-19 |
| Respiratory Viral PCR<br>(e.g. Influenza)                               | Nasopharyngeal swab | Separate request form<br>Send sample/form in own bag                                      |
| Throat swab for MC&S<br>(e.g. Rheumatic Fever<br>screen, Group A strep) | Throat swab         | Separate request form<br>Send sample/form in own bag                                      |

# COVID-19 TESTING

## Specimen requirement: One Nasopharyngeal swab

### NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION

- Wear PPE: mask, gloves, eye protection, gown
- Rest back of patient's head against wall (or car headrest)
- Insert swab 4-5 cm into nose in horizontal direction.
- Rotate swab 3 x each way



## COVID-19 swab packs

- Each pack contains one swab and one tube
- Swab is **flexible**
- Tube contains **virus transport medium (VTM or VTF)**

*Actual swabs/tubes may vary slightly from those pictured*



- There is no need to double bag COVID-19 specimens
- COVID-19 swabs must be bagged separately from other laboratory specimens such as bloods and other swabs, and have a separate laboratory request form
- COVID-19 swabs will routinely be tested for SARS-CoV-2 virus only
- Normal courier services apply

**Please ensure all members of your institution receive a copy of this clinical update.**