

ALERT LEVEL 1: HEALTH AND DISABILITY SECTOR RISK ASSESSMENT FOR INTERACTIONS WITH PEOPLE OF UNKNOWN COVID-19 STATUS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE INITIAL INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) APPROACH

This is a risk assessment for first point of contact with people whose COVID-19 status is unknown. Please ask the questions before contact with the person if possible (by phone or signage); otherwise maintain physical distancing of at least 1 m while asking them.¹ No matter what a person's COVID-19 status is, follow Standard Precautions for all care.² Refer to your organisational IPC guidance also.

Note: The risk of community transmission is very low in Alert Level 1. Guidance will be updated if this context changes.

Does the person have an acute respiratory infection with at least one of the following: new or worsening cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose or temporary loss of smell with or without fever?



In the 14 days prior to illness onset has the person had close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, had international travel, had direct contact with a person who has travelled overseas,³ worked on an international aircraft or shipping vessel or cleaned at an international airport or maritime port or in areas/conveniences visited by international arrivals?

In the last 14 days has the person travelled overseas⁴ or are they a close contact of someone who is a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case?



This person has a small chance of having COVID-19.

- ▶ Provide them with a mask to wear and help them get assessed by a health care provider so their COVID-19 status can be determined.
- ▶ Ensure they are at least 1 m away from others, or move them into a single room if available.^{5,8}
- ▶ If you cannot maintain 1 m physical distancing, you should wear a surgical mask.
- ▶ If the person needs care, clinical assessment or a procedure within 1m, please refer to PPE guidance when caring for a COVID-19 case.⁶

This person may have another acute respiratory illness.

- ▶ Facilitate and encourage cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene.²
- ▶ If providing care outside of their place of residence, provide the patient/client a mask to wear.⁷
- ▶ Ensure they are at least 1 m away from others, or move them into a single room if available.^{5,8}
- ▶ If you cannot maintain 1 m physical distancing, you should also wear a surgical mask as part of droplet precautions.²
- ▶ Always apply Standard Precautions depending on the nature of care to be provided.²

This person has a very small chance of being a pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic COVID-19 case.

- ▶ If providing care outside of their place of residence, provide the patient/client a mask to wear.⁷
- ▶ Ensure they are at least 1 m away from others, or move them into a single room if available.^{5,8}
- ▶ If you are providing care in their place of residence and you cannot maintain 1 m physical distancing, you should wear a surgical mask.
- ▶ Always apply Standard Precautions depending on the nature of care to be provided.²

In the last 14 days has the person been in contact with someone else who has recently travelled overseas?⁹



Apply Standard Precautions depending on nature of care to be provided.^{2,10}

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Always facilitate and encourage cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene, as well as adhering to the '5 moments for hand hygiene'.

- This assessment will determine whether you need to take extra IPC precautions because they are at risk of having COVID-19, or they have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days and therefore they have a risk, although very low, of being pre-symptomatic or an asymptomatic COVID-19 case
- Refer to *Frequently Asked Questions about PPE*, available at www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health
- This includes** Customs and Immigration staff and staff at quarantine/isolation facilities. **This excludes** household and community contacts of aircrew
- This does not apply** to those who have worked on an international aircraft or shipping vessel (for example, air or maritime crew), unless they have been asked to self-isolate
- The patient/client is not required to continue wearing a mask once in a single room
- www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health
- The person only needs to wear a mask when receiving care outside their place of residence, to prevent transmission risk to other people
- Unless they are in their private home
- This includes** Customs and Immigration staff, staff at quarantine/isolation facilities, people who have worked on an international aircraft or shipping vessel (unless they have been asked to self-isolate), household and community contacts of aircrew.
- Other control measures for this group are sufficient that if they are asymptomatic, only Standard Precautions are required