

## ALERT LEVEL 3 AND 4: HEALTH AND DISABILITY SECTOR RISK ASSESSMENT FOR INTERACTIONS WITH PEOPLE OF UNKNOWN COVID-19 STATUS

This document provides guidance for a risk assessment that should be undertaken at the 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 2 metres when asking them.<sup>1</sup> Defer care or use telemedicine where possible. Follow Standard Precautions for all care.<sup>2</sup> Also, refer to your organisational Infection Prevention and Control Guidance.

**Clinical Criteria:** Does the person have an acute respiratory infection with at least one of the following symptoms (with or without fever): new or worsening cough, fever (at least 38°C), shortness of breath, sore throat, sneezing or runny nose, loss of sense of smell or altered sense of taste.

✓ YES

✗ NO

### Risk Factors:

In the 14 days prior to seeking care has the person:

- ▶ Had contact with a COVID-19 case **OR**
- ▶ Been in attendance at a current location of interest <sup>3</sup> **OR**
- ▶ Meets the **Higher Index for Suspicion Criteria (HIS)**<sup>4</sup>: Check the Ministry of Health website for updated information.

✓ YES

✗ NO

✓ YES

✗ NO

- ▶ Provide them with a medical mask to wear for source control.
- ▶ Ensure they are at least 2m from others in a well ventilated space, ie single room or other space outdoors if available.
- ▶ If the person needs clinical assessment or direct care wear a P2/N95 particulate respirator, eye protection, gown and gloves.

- ▶ Provide them with a medical mask to wear for source control.
- ▶ Maintain 2m from others or move them into a single room.
- ▶ Wear a medical mask and eye protection.
- ▶ When care is provided in a confined poorly ventilated space wear a P2/N95 particulate respirator and eye protection.

- ▶ Provide them with a medical mask to wear for source control.
- ▶ Maintain 2m from others or move them into a single room.
- ▶ Wear a medical mask.
- ▶ Eye protection optional.
- ▶ When care is provided in a confined poorly ventilated space wear a P2/N95 particulate respirator.

- ▶ Person to wear a face covering (their own or medical mask provided).
- ▶ Wear a medical mask.
- ▶ Eye protection optional.
- ▶ Apply Standard Precautions depending on the nature of care to be provided.

**SESSIONAL MASK USE:** Where possible a mask or particulate respirator can be worn continuously. Replace if it becomes damp, damaged, or at the end of a session (up to 4 hours).

1. This assessment will determine what additional IPC precautions are required.  
 2. Refer to Frequently Asked Questions about PPE [www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health](http://www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health)  
 3. Refer to MOH for contact tracing places of interest [www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-contact-tracing-locations-interest#current](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-contact-tracing-locations-interest#current)  
 4. Refer to MOH case definition: [www.health.govt.nz/COVID-19-case-definition](http://www.health.govt.nz/COVID-19-case-definition).