

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 new or worsening respiratory symptoms including one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose or temporary loss of smell, with or without fever?



In the last 14 days has the person travelled overseas or had close contact with someone else who has recently travelled overseas³, or are they a close contact of someone who is a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case?

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 urgent care before their formal assessment for COVID-19, please refer to PPE guidance required 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?³



Apply Standard Precautions depending on nature of care to be provided.^{2,9}

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

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

1 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

2 Refer to *Frequently Asked Questions about PPE*, available at www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health

3 Includes border (international airport and maritime port), quarantine and isolation facility staff, air crew, travellers

4 This does not apply to air crew

5 The patient/client is not required to continue wearing a mask once in a single room

6 www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health

7 The person only needs to wear a mask when receiving care outside their place of residence, to prevent transmission risk to other people

8 Unless they are in their private home

9 Other control measures for this group are sufficient that if they are asymptomatic, only Standard Precautions are required