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<b>To:</b>	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
<b>From:</b>	Dr Craig Thornley, Medical Officer of Health
<b>Date:</b>	03 July 2020
<b>Title:</b>	Updated advice for health professionals: novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

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Please distribute the following information to relevant staff in your organisation.

## UPDATED ADVICE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Ministry of Health's COVID-19 advice for health professionals document has been updated.

Changes made to this version include:

- Removal of suspect case definition; introduction of Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) criteria (defined in the COVID-19 [case definition](#)).
- Clarification of management of people meeting clinical but not HIS criteria, and therefore being tested for surveillance purposes.
- Removal of requirement for health care workers with confirmed COVID-19 infection to have two negative tests before returning to work following release from isolation.
- Inclusion of guidance on management of contacts and relapsing cases (previously in the case definition document).
- Introduction of brief advice on management of cases with persistent symptoms.
- Updated advice on management of close contacts seeking transfer or admission to aged residential care (ARC) facilities.
- Updated links to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) advice.

The full document is available on the Ministry of Health website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-health-professionals/covid-19-advice-all-health-professionals>

The case definition for COVID-19 infection (last updated 24 June 2020) can be found at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-health-professionals/case-definition-covid-19-infection>