
To:	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
From:	Dr Jill McKenzie, Medical Officer of Health
Date:	22 April 2021
Title:	Updates on notification of COVID-19 high index of suspicion (HIS)

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

All public health alerts are available at www.rph.org.nz/publichealthalerts

UPDATES TO NOTIFICATION OF COVID-19 HIGH INDEX OF SUSPICION (HIS) – QUARANTINE FREE TRAVEL AND UPDATED NOTIFICATION FORM

KEY POINTS

- Travel from Quarantine Free Travel Zones (currently Australia) are excluded from the HIS criteria for “International Travel” i.e. symptomatic travellers from QFT zones only need to be notified if they meet another HIS criteria.
- An additional HIS criteria has been added:
 - worked in a cold store facility that receives imported chilled and frozen goods directly from an international air or maritime port.
- The RPH HIS notification form has been updated to reflect these changes – available at: <http://www.rph.org.nz/health-professionals/notifiable-diseases/>
- Please note that it is only necessary to notify individuals who fit the HIS criteria **AND** are symptomatic.
- Please use this form to notify RPH within 24 hours by email or if urgent by telephone 04 570 9002:
 - Monday – Friday RPHNotifications@huttvalleydhb.org.nz
(NB this email is **not** monitored afterhours)
 - Afterhours/weekends Res-CommsDisPHN@huttvalleydhb.org.nz

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- All symptomatic HIS individuals should be informed of the need to **self-isolate** at home until they receive a negative test result. Whilst they are self-isolating at home, they should minimise contact with family members
- Following receipt of a negative test result, they should be advised to **stay at home** until they have been asymptomatic for 24 hours.
- Their household members/whānau are not required to stay at home unless they are also symptomatic.
- There may be specific situations where RPH will request a second COVID-19 test and require the person to continue to isolate; the person and their GP will be advised of this directly by RPH.

Further information regarding clinical testing guidance is available at the Ministry of Health's website: [Clinical testing guidelines for COVID-19](#).

Further information regarding self-isolation and staying at home is available at the Ministry of Health's [self-isolation](#) webpage and their [staying at home](#) webpage.