

<b>To:</b>	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
<b>From:</b>	Dr Stephen Palmer, Medical Officer of Health
<b>Date:</b>	30 July 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Updates on notification of COVID-19 high index of suspicion (HIS)

## UPDATES TO COVID-19 HIS NOTIFICATIONS – COMMUNITY OUTBREAK LOCATIONS AND UPDATED NOTIFICATION FORM

### KEY POINTS

- An additional high index of suspicion (HIS) criteria has been added:
  - travelled from an area with an evolving COVID-19 community outbreak (including in New Zealand and in any country/area with which New Zealand has Quarantine Free Travel)
- The RPH HIS notification form has been updated to reflect these changes – available at: [www.rph.org.nz/health-professionals/notifiable-diseases/](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 the updated notification form to notify RPH within 24 hours by email or if urgent by telephone (04 570 9002):
  - [RPH.CaseManagement@huttvalleydhb.org.nz](mailto:RPH.CaseManagement@huttvalleydhb.org.nz)  
(NB this is an updated email address from the previous form. This inbox is monitored 7 days, during working hours.)

# PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

30 July 2021 - Page 2 of 2

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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 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](#).