

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Health Professional Home Visit Guideline flow chart based on Phone Screening.

Last updated: May 14th, 2020

Phone before any visits and ask if the patient or anyone in their household:-

- is a suspected/probable or confirmed COVID-19 case (includes those who have been overseas in the last two weeks)?
- Is unwell with at least one of the following acute respiratory symptoms: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, coryza, anosmia with or without fever.

YES

NO

Is an appointment or home visit necessary within 7 days?

Advise those with symptoms to get testing done. Defer visit or appointment, and document reason for deferral. Offer phone advice and virtual consult as appropriate. Repeat phone screening of patient using this flow chart prior to next visit.

Has the client or household member had close contact with a suspect, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

NO

YES

NO

YES

Check that COVID-19 testing is being organised for the client or symptomatic household member.

Staff should:

- Advise the client that you may be wearing PPE

During the visit:

- Maintain physical distancing from client and household members (remain > 2m). Ask any household member with an acute respiratory infection to stay in another room.
- Perform hand hygiene
- If you need to be in <2m contact with the client (for example to provide clinical care) you should adhere to standard, contact and droplet precautions i.e. **surgical mask, gown/apron, gloves, eye protection.**
- Reinforce cough, sneeze and hand hygiene with the client.
- Change PPE after each client, and dispose of it safely after leaving the client's residence.

If an appointment or home visit is necessary, staff should:

- Advise the client that you may be wearing PPE

During the visit:

- Maintain physical distancing (remain more than 2m). Ensure that any household member who is a close contact of someone who is a suspect, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 stays in another room
- Perform hand hygiene
- If you need to be in <2m contact with the client, for example to provide clinical care, **in addition to usual precautions, the worker should wear surgical mask and gloves**
- Reinforce cough, sneeze and hand hygiene with the client.
- Change PPE after each client, and dispose of it safely after leaving the client's residence.

If an appointment or home visit is necessary then staff should wear a **surgical mask** if social distancing of >2m cannot be maintained for all people at high risk i.e. All hospice patients. Use contact precautions as required for contact cares. Please dispose of mask appropriately after each client.

If you as a health professional have any doubt about the level of PPE after applying this guideline:

Please discuss with someone in your team.

If the patient or family have any COVID-19 Questions:

Refer them to the dedicated COVID-19 line on 0800 3585453 or their GP.