

From: HSE HPSC

Level of urgency*: Urgent

Date: 11/2/2020

Time: 17.00

Alert type: Notification of updated guidance: Risk assessment algorithms, infection prevention and control guidelines, laboratory guidelines

Alert number: 2

Algorithms

The algorithms for risk assessment of patients presenting in primary care, [general practice and healthcare settings other than receiving hospitals](#), [the National Ambulance Service](#) and at [receiving hospitals](#) have been updated

The main changes are as follows:

- Standard, contact and droplet precautions advised for all settings with airborne precautions for aerosol generating procedures
- Clarification that mainland China excludes Hong Kong and Macau
- Samples accepted for testing at NVRL now include nasopharyngeal **and** oropharyngeal swabs

[Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines](#)

Laboratory guidance

The new [guidance on novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV collection and transportation of specimens](#) includes:

- Steps for sample collection and transportation to NVRL
- The need for both clinical and public health contact details to report results
- Testing will be performed once daily including at weekends
- Estimated turnaround time is 12-24 hours; for same day results samples must arrive at the NVRL before 10am

Actions requested:

1. **ALL:** Cascade all guidance to clinical staff
2. **Directors of Public Health:** Please cascade [Risk Assessment for patients presenting to general practice and healthcare settings other than receiving hospitals](#) locally to general practice and healthcare settings other than receiving hospitals

For and on behalf of Dr John Cuddihy
Interim Director, HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre
Ireland's National IHR Focal Point
25-27 Middle Gardiner Street
Dublin, 1
www.hpsc.ie