

# GP assessment of patients with suspected COVID-19

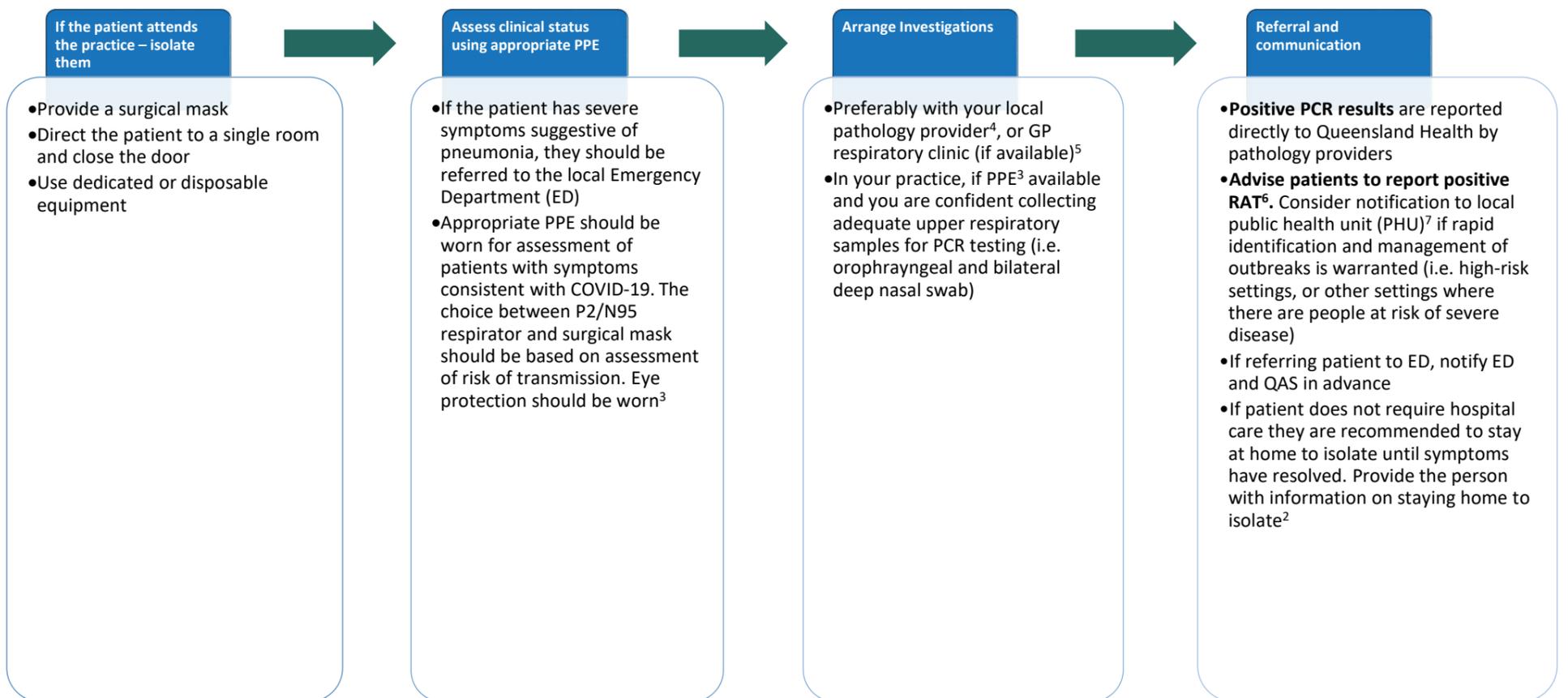
Place alerts on practice website and alert signage at entrance to practice. If possible, assess patients initially by telephone or telehealth consultation. MBS telehealth services <http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Factsheet-telehealth-1July22>

## COVID-19 case definitions<sup>1</sup>

<b>Confirmed case</b>	<b>Requires laboratory definitive evidence:</b> detection of SARS-CoV-2 by nucleic amplification acid testing (NAAT); <b>OR</b> isolation of SARS-CoV-2 in cell culture, with confirmation using a NAAT; <b>OR</b> SARS-CoV-2 IgG seroconversion or a 4-fold or greater increase in SARS-CoV-2 antibodies of any immunoglobulin subclass including 'total' assays in acute and convalescent sera, in the absence of vaccination
<b>Probable case</b>	<b>Includes individuals who have laboratory suggestive evidence:</b> detection of SARS-CoV-2 by rapid antigen testing (RAT)
<b>Testing in Queensland</b>	<p><b>Test anyone with any COVID-19 compatible symptoms:</b> cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, fever, headache, myalgia, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of smell, loss of taste, loss of appetite</p> <p><b>Clinicians should have a high level of suspicion for COVID-19 in the general population, and a low threshold for testing</b></p> <p><b>People with acute respiratory symptoms should undergo testing SARS-CoV-2 and possibly other respiratory pathogens (e.g., multiplex respiratory PCR)<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p><b>People who test positive to COVID-19 are recommended to<sup>2</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stay at home to isolate until symptoms have resolved</li> <li>avoid entering hospitals, residential aged care facilities or disability accommodation services for at least 7 days after testing positive to COVID-19</li> <li>wear a face mask in an indoor setting and if unable to physically distance outside for at least 7 days after testing positive to COVID-19</li> </ul> <p><b>If access to PCR testing is limited, this should be prioritised for patients at high risk of severe disease, people who require hospital care for their symptoms, and people who live or work in high-risk settings and communities</b></p> <p><b>Serological testing to demonstrate immunity against SARS-CoV-2 in vaccinated individuals is not recommended</b></p>

## Who to test for SARS-CoV-2<sup>1</sup>

Symptomatic	Action	Testing after previous positive test
<p>Acute respiratory infection: recent onset of new or worsening acute respiratory symptoms e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, with or without other symptoms</p> <p>Other symptoms include fever (<math>\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math>), headache, myalgia, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of smell, loss of taste, loss of appetite</p> <p>Fever is less common in the elderly</p> <p>Other symptoms to consider in the elderly include new onset or increase in confusion, change in baseline behaviour, falling, or exacerbation of underlying chronic illness</p> <p>SARS-CoV-2 testing should be considered when assessing patients presenting with non-specific signs of infection</p>	<p><b>Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (PCR)</b></p> <p><b>Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) may be used if access to PCR is unavailable or limited</b></p> <p><b>Stay at home until symptoms have resolved</b></p> <p><b>If a positive SARS-CoV-2 result is received, follow Queensland guidelines<sup>2</sup></b></p>	<p>People who develop new acute respiratory symptoms within 35 days since their previous positive test should have a COVID-19 test and stay at home until symptoms have resolved, irrespective of COVID-19 test result</p> <p>Testing for COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses may be indicated in people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease who develop new symptoms at any time after COVID-19 acute symptoms have resolved</p> <p>If more than 35 days have passed since previous positive test, recovered cases should be tested for SARS-CoV-2, and other respiratory pathogens if they develop new respiratory symptoms, managed as a case if they test positive for SARS-CoV-2, managed as a close contact if they meet the close contact definition</p>



<sup>1</sup>COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cdna-national-guidelines-for-public-health-units>  
<sup>2</sup>Guidance for people diagnosed with COVID-19 in Queensland <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/i-have-covid/guidelines-for-safely-managing-covid-19>  
<sup>3</sup>COVID-19 guidance on use of PPE <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-in-non-inpatient-health-care-settings-during-the-covid-19-outbreak>  
<sup>4</sup>COVID-19 Testing in Qld <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/exposed-to-covid/covid-testing-in-queensland>  
<sup>5</sup>COVID-19 GP Respiratory Clinics <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/coronavirus-covid-19-gp-respiratory-clinics>  
<sup>6</sup>Report positive Rapid Antigen Test <https://www.qld.gov.au/rat-positive>  
<sup>7</sup>Contact details for local public health units <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/contact-public-health-units>