Health advice on protocols following first case confirmation of novel coronavirus

Request as received

- Key messages about the protocols to be undertaken once a case of novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) has been confirmed in New Zealand.

Key messages

- If and when New Zealand receives a confirmed case of novel coronavirus we will activate the standard public health and clinical protocols for managing infectious disease cases.

- The overall aim of the protocols are to:

  o ensure appropriate and adequate treatment of the patient

  o prevent any onward spread within hospital settings and community contacts by performing thorough contact tracing.

Protocol and steps

- Suspected case (i.e. that meets the case definition) notified to Medical Officer of Health (MOSH) by primary care provider or hospital (A priority - immediate)

- Suspected case managed in self-isolation or hospital isolation depending on clinical severity

- MOSH advises the Ministry (including the National Health Coordination Centre) - contact tracing and potential contamination response initiated (A priority)

- ESR notifies Ministry and MOSH of test results (as soon as result is available – maximum turnaround time is currently 24 hours)

- Confirmed case notified to key stakeholders including Director-General of Health, Minister of Health and other Ministers, DPMC / NSS, WHO (A priority)

- Confirmed case notified to WHO via IHR Focal Point (B priority, within 24 hours of notification)

- Deploy prepared media update and talking points pre-prepared by the Ministry (B priority, within 2 hours of notification)

- NHCC Border Operations (MOH) review border controls based on case details and provide advice to Ministers if required (C priority, same day)

- Advice to DHBs, Public Health Units, laboratories, primary care, etc. (C priority, same day)

- Ministry to follow up with Public Health Units on contract tracing and potential local media statements (as required)

- Ministry to revise current guidance and website information (as required).