

COVID-19: Mental Health Community Acute Pathway & Guidelines (ACOS, CAMHS, Older Adult, and Adult)

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1. Purpose and Scope

This document provides guidelines for all Mental Health clinicians (medical, nursing, allied health) working at Auckland District Health Board in Acute Community Services across the age continuum. Clinical pathways have been developed to support staff to continue to offer Mental Health assessment and interventions for people presenting to acute community teams with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

2. Screening for COVID-19

- a. All staff need to complete the COVID-19 triage questions (as per the community acute pathway (appendix 1)) prior to and before EVERY contact (face-to-face, telephone or video call).
- b. Te Whetu Tawera, CFU/MBU, BRC & FMU admitting staff will also need to ask these questions prior to a service user being admitted so they can ensure that a person is isolated if required.
- c. Please see the '[Community Acute Pathway](#)' guidelines (Appendix 1) if you need to do an urgent mental health assessment of a person with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Ensure that you follow the escalation process, which includes informing you CTL during business hours and Level 4 Manager out of hours.

3. Clinical Pathways

Assessment Type	Location	Who	Precautions
Initial assessments or medical reviews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service user home address 2. Service user home address via video-conference (VC) 3. CMHT <p>Consider video-conference capability at initial assessment for any required follow up</p>	All staff	Basic precautions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete screening questions prior to arrival - If fail screening questions follow Community Acute Pathway (Appendix 1) 2. Complete hand hygiene routine prior to leaving the office. 3. Complete hand hygiene prior to leaving the car 4. Use anti-bacterial wipes to clean car surfaces before travel 5. Conduct assessment using PPE (for suspected or confirmed COVID-19) 6. Wash-hands as per MOH guidelines following assessment. 7. Wipe down car surfaces following return to office or before next assessment. 8. Wash hands as per MOH guidelines.
Mental Health Act assessments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service user home address 2. Service user home address via video-conference (VC) 3. CMHC <p>Consider video-conference capability at initial assessment</p>	All staff	Basic precautions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete screening questions prior to assessment – if fail screening questions follow Community Acute Pathway (Appendix 1) 2. Complete hand hygiene routine prior to leaving the office 3. Use anti-bacterial wipes to clean car surfaces before travel

	for any required follow up		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Complete hand hygiene prior to leaving the car 5. Conduct assessment using PPE (for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 guidelines) 6. Wash-hands as per MOH guidelines following assessment. 7. Wipe down car surfaces following return to office or before next assessment. 8. Wash hands as per MOH guidelines.
Follow up medical review/assessment	See follow-up assessment plan in notes of initial visit	All staff	Basic precautions (if required): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hand-washing prior to visit 2. Screening questions asked pre-visit 3. If pass screening questions, then maintain 2 metre distance, good hand hygiene
Police Station assessments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use VC option if available 	All staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete screening questions prior to arrival – if fail screening questions follow Community Acute Pathway (Appendix 1) 2. Complete hand hygiene routine prior to leaving the office 3. Use anti-bacterial wipes to clean car surfaces before travel 4. Conduct assessment using PPE if suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case 5. Wash-hands as per MOH guidelines following assessment. 6. Wipe down car surfaces following return to office or before next assessment. 7. Wash hands as per MOH guidelines.
Respite facility assessments	Consider video-conference capability at initial assessment for any required follow up	All staff	Basic precautions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete screening questions prior to arrival - If fail screening questions, discuss with Community Team Leader re VC options 2. Complete hand hygiene routine prior to leaving the office 3. Use anti-bacterial wipes to clean car surfaces before travel 4. Complete hand hygiene prior to leaving the car 5. Conduct assessment 6. Wash-hands as per MOH guidelines following assessment. 7. Wipe down car surfaces following return to office or before next assessment. 8. Wash hands as per MOH guidelines.

Home visit	Covid-19 NEGATIVE, but requires self-isolation	All staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete hand hygiene routine prior to leaving the office 2. Use anti-bacterial wipes to clean car surfaces before travel 3. Conduct assessment maintaining 2 metre distance and wearing face-mask – service user to be asked to wear face mask. 4. Wash-hands as per MOH guidelines following assessment. 5. Wipe down car surfaces following return to office or before next assessment. 6. Wash hands as per MOH guidelines.
Home visit	Covid-19 POSITIVE and requires self-isolation	All staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete hand hygiene routine prior to leaving the office 2. Use anti-bacterial wipes to clean car surfaces before travel 3. Conduct assessment maintaining 2 metre distance and wearing full PPE gear – service user to be asked to wear face mask. 4. Wash-hands as per MOH guidelines following assessment. 5. Wipe down car surfaces following return to office or before next assessment. 6. Wash hands as per MOH guidelines.
Admission to Te Whetu Tawera, CFU/ MBU, BRC & FMU if suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phone unit to confirm admission. 2. Clarify and confirm where the admission will take place on the unit, including how to enter the unit 3. Confirm estimated arrival time so the unit can prepare for the admission 4. Phone the unit on arrival and follow the unit guidance re-entering the unit and admission process. 5. Complete hand hygiene process prior to leaving office, home visit or police station 6. Use anti-bacterial wipes to clean car surfaces before travel 7. Complete admission following usual admission processes 8. If clinically indicated use PPE and follow Community Acute Pathway (Appendix 1) 9. Wash-hands as per MOH guidelines following assessment. 10. Wipe down car surfaces following return to office or before next assessment. 11. Wash hands as per MOH guidelines.

For service users presenting with flu-like symptoms requiring acute admission discussion with CTL, referring and accepting SCD & NUM to occur prior to admission

Arrangements will be made to have all COVID-positive service users assessed medically on a daily basis.

4. Duration of Observation and Treatment

As with all other service users, individuals will be discharged upon completion of their mental health treatment. Discharge plans will include the plan for the individual to complete their period of isolation and the plan for any necessary medical monitoring.

5. Maintaining cleaning environment

This will follow organisational direction.

6. Service User information and support

Staff need to direct all our service users to the MOH site for latest and most accurate information.

7. PPE

Orders have been submitted. Community teams requiring PPE prior to stock being delivered will need to escalate this to CTL during business hours and Level 4 on-call Manager out of hours to source and obtain stock from inpatient units.

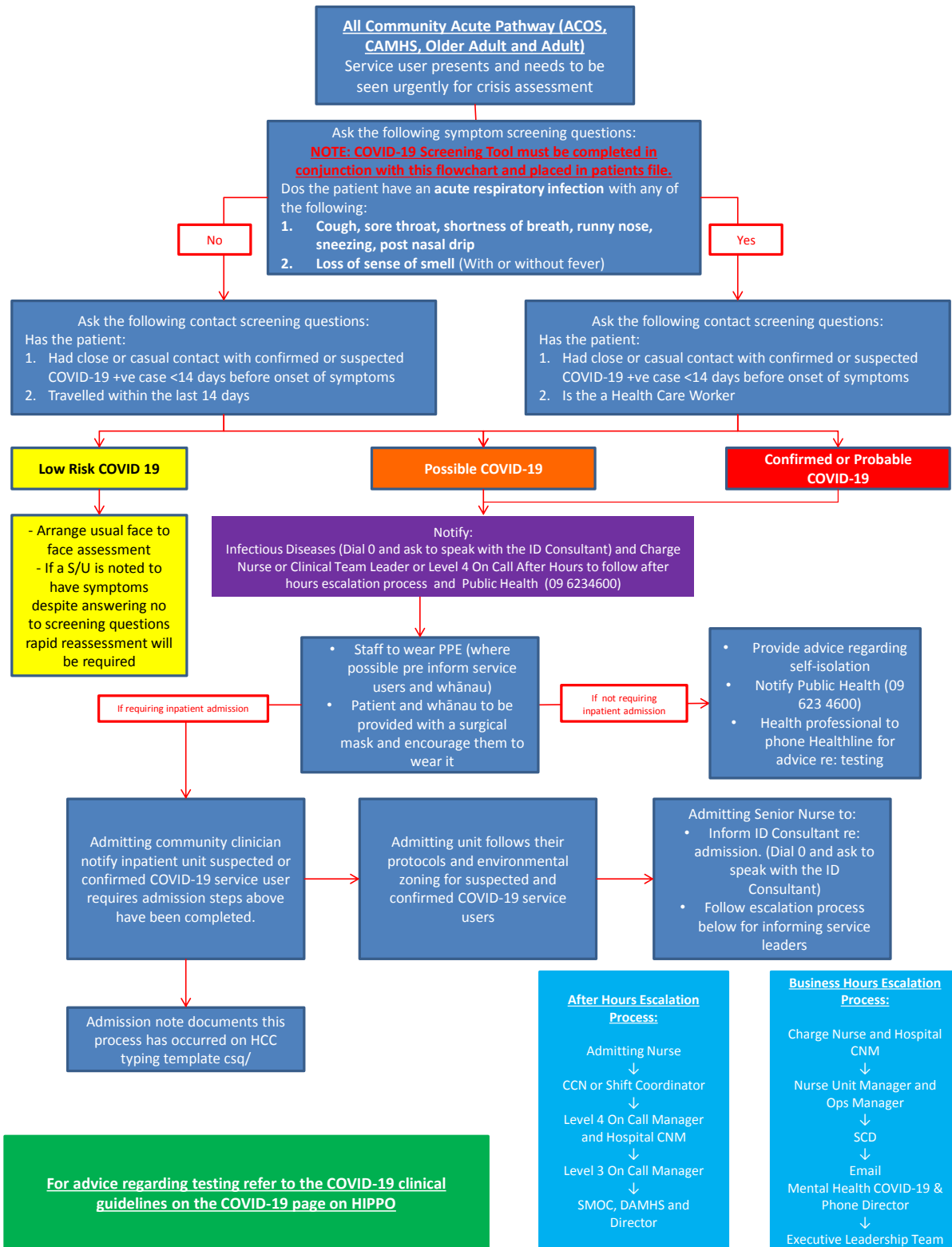
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8. Appendix 1: Community Acute Pathway



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