

10 February 2022



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To whom it may concern

Re: Mobile phlebotomy service

This letter is to outline Labtests current risk mitigation plan for the home visit service in the context of the growing COVID-19 outbreak and/or endemic COVID-19.

In accordance with the current COVID-19 Public Health Response legislation, any Labtests staff member visiting your site for Labtests purposes will be COVID-19 vaccinated in line with the Vaccination Order requirements.

Labtests home visits team are supplied with PPE which includes N95 masks, visors, gowns and gloves that are worn at all times. Our home visits staff undertake high frequency surveillance testing, symptom monitoring themselves and their household, and continue to follow standard infection prevention measures (e.g. hand hygiene). These measures are all to mitigate the risk to our staff and prevent the risk of onward transmission.

In agreement with our current policies, our home visits staff do not have to undergo Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) testing at this stage. Labtests are performing saliva surveillance and have good levels of PPE present. These methods are satisfactory and meet our obligations to the current response.

Consistent with current practice in the wider health sector, phlebotomy staff using appropriate PPE and following the required Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) measures are not stood down after bleeding COVID-19 positive cases. If our phlebotomists are turned away as they have been in contact with COVID-19 positive cases as part of their phlebotomy work, we will be unable to send a different phlebotomist to cover.

In addition, Labtests can accommodate bleeding patients in outdoor areas. This option is only available if it is safe and comfortable for both the patient and phlebotomists and does not cause any delays to the service. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Lesley Overend

Medical director Labtests and Northland Pathology.