Fact sheet for patients

Direct Saliva - COVID-19 test

You are being given this Fact Sheet because your sample(s) is going to be tested for the virus that causes COVID 19 using a validated direct saliva test. This is an accurate and non invasive screening test. You will be asked to provide a small volume of saliva which will go into a labelled tube.

After reading this Fact Sheet, if you have questions or would like to discuss the information provided, please talk to your healthcare provider.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus which is a virus in humans causing a contagious respiratory illness. COVID-19 can present with a mild to severe illness, although some people infected with COVID-19 may have no symptoms at all.

Some people that test positive for COVID-19 using a test such as this have no symptoms. This means the test is capable of detecting the presence of the COVID-19 virus in a person before symptoms start.

What are the benefits of the test?

- The benefits of this test are that it is non-invasive and so, there is no discomfort by taking this test.
- The results, along with other information, can help your healthcare provider make informed recommendations about your care.
- The results of this test may help limit the spread of COVID-19 to your family and those you come in contact with.

What does it mean if I have a negative test result?

If you have a negative test result, it is very likely that you do not have COVID-19 and you can return to your COVID-free workplace.

What does it mean if I have a positive test result?

If you have a positive test result, it is very likely that you have COVID-19.

This is a notifiable disease and the Ministry of Health will be notified. Your healthcare provider will then work with you to determine how best to care for you as well as assist you in following the existing COVID-19 guidelines.

How will my Privacy be respected?

You will be asked to provide your date of birth, NHI number and contact details. This will ensure that your sample is correctly identified throughout the screening process.

Any information we collect from you will be held in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and the Health Information Privacy Code 2020. Full details of our Privacy Policy can be found here.

Your sample will be testing for COVID 19 only and unless positive, it will be destroyed after 7 days.

What do I consent to by taking the test?

You consent to your test results being released to your healthcare provider or hospital, and in the event of a positive test, also to the relevant Health Authorities.

In the event of a positive test, you also consent to my anonymised sample being retained indefinitely for research purposes.