



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

**CRITERIA FOR TESTING FOR COVID-19
FOR FIJI**

Ministry of Health and Medical Services		SOP #	
		Drafter :	Fiji CDC
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

By 1st May 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic declared on 11 March 2020 has recorded 3,175,207 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 224,172 deaths worldwide. Fiji reported its first imported case of COVID-19 on 18 March 2020 and as of Friday 1st May 2020, a total of 18 cases has been reported with no case fatality. Of these cases, 14 patients had recovered and 4 patients remained active cases.

The review of the testing criteria is necessary as Fiji moves towards the declaration a COVID-19 free status (after completion of 2 consecutive incubation periods with no new cases). The increase in testing capacity afforded by the recent availability of Gene expert testing, coupled with the ongoing Fever Clinic service (Fixed and Mobile) provide the means to ensure that there is no undetected presence of the disease in the community prior to the declaration and the subsequent easing of current restriction measures.

This testing criteria and case definition replaces earlier versions published by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. The case definitions (particularly the epidemiological criteria) for COVID-19 are subject to change as the disease progresses nationally and globally. The taskforce will announce if/when the case definition changes.

2.0 SCOPE

This criteria shall be used in:

- All health facilities
- All COVID-19 isolation facilities
- All Fever Clinics – Fixed and Mobile

3.0 CRITERIA FOR TESTING FOR COVID-19

3.1 CATEGORY 1 – SUSPECTED CASES

Patients and individuals in the categories below should be tested for COVID-19 disease.

1A. Symptomatic case

A patient with a history of international travel during the 14 days prior to symptom onset and **any** of the following symptoms: cough, sore throat, rhinorrhea/sneezing, shortness of breath, body ache, headache, fever

OR

A patient having been in close contact with a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms and **any** of the following symptoms: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea/sneezing, body ache, headache, fever

OR

A healthcare worker involved in the direct care of a COVID-19 case with any of the following symptoms within 14 days of last contact: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea/sneezing, body ache, headache, fever

1B. Asymptomatic close contacts of a case of COVID-19, or international travelers, who have completed 14 days of the total of 28 days of quarantine

1C. Asymptomatic healthcare workers who have completed 14 days quarantine after directly caring for confirmed cases

3.2 CATEGORY 2 – SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE

Selected individuals and patients in the categories below should be tested for COVID-19 disease. The purpose of testing of individuals and patients in this category is to monitor and assess community transmission. The individuals tested in this category are not suspected cases. However, individuals in high-risk groups (particularly healthcare workers and institutional residents/staff) should be told to self-isolate pending results.

2A. Adult patients admitted to hospital with acute respiratory illness/pneumonia (includes SARI patients)

2B. High risk groups:

Healthcare workers Institutional residents and staff (corrections facilities, aged care homes) Special Outpatients Department (SOPD) patients	<u>AND</u>	Acute respiratory illness: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea/sneezing <u>with or without</u> fever
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2C. General population

Patients presenting to one of 10 sentinel outpatient facilities with acute respiratory illness: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea/sneezing **with or without** fever

Designated sentinel sites are required to randomly select 10 patients per day that meet the above criteria for testing.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY

All line managers are responsible for ensuring that the testing criteria is integrated into the current practice and is adhered to at all times.

5.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

This testing criteria is valid for six (6) months from the date of endorsement, and is subject to review at any time at the discretion of the Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services.