



# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19 also known as 2019-nCoV)

## P2 and/or Surgical Mask Delivery

The Australian Government and NSW Health have released a limited supply of masks for distribution to health practitioners.

**Surgical masks** are available for distribution to general practitioners and community pharmacists who are 'first responders'. These are not intended for the general public or for sale. A surgical mask should be provided to patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 immediately on presentation and be worn by staff members providing routine care or collecting specimens from patients with mild to moderate symptoms.

**P2 masks** are available for general practitioners who are undertaking COVID-19 specimen collection at their practices. P2 masks are to be worn by general practitioners when collecting specimens from patients with severe symptoms.

## Resources

Authorities are asking health professionals across the sector to watch out for signs and symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in patients.

The Commonwealth Department of Health has published advice on non-inpatient care of persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, including use of personal protective equipment (PPE):  
[www.bit.ly/doh-CV-update](http://www.bit.ly/doh-CV-update)

For more information and how-to-wear instructional videos for P2 masks, visit: [www.bit.ly/p2-masks](http://www.bit.ly/p2-masks)

For Infection Control Primary and Community Care information visit: [www.bit.ly/nsw\\_prevention\\_care](http://www.bit.ly/nsw_prevention_care)

## Stay up to date

For more information and links to resources for primary care health professionals, visit our dedicated North Coast PHN webpage: [www.bit.ly/CV-PHN](http://www.bit.ly/CV-PHN)

Sign-up to receive health alerts and advisories: [www.ncphn.org.au/subscribe](http://www.ncphn.org.au/subscribe)

## Testing Requirements

General practices are encouraged to:

- Collect specimens at the practice if the practice is equipped from an infection control perspective and the GP feels comfortable collecting the specimen.
- Wear a long sleeved gown, gloves, mask and eye protection when assessing patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Send patients who fulfil the case definition to dedicated testing collection centres with prior notification to the centre. View list at: [www.bit.ly/cv-testing](http://www.bit.ly/cv-testing)
- Only send patients to emergency departments if neither of the above options are available, and/or the patient has significant illness, with prior notification to the FACEM on call.