SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) ICU flowchart
Last updated: 9 July 2020

ICU clinician to assess if the patient fits within the NSW Health testing criteria:

ICU staff will collect the specimens recommended as:
• one viral swab having sampled appropriate oral and nasal areas in transport medium (as per the NSW Health Collection of nasal and throat swabs for respiratory virus testing: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Pages/nasal-throat-swabs.aspx)
• a lower respiratory tract sample (if obtainable).
• one serum tube for storage for SARS-CoV-2 serology.
• For LRT samples, a sputum sample is at least recommended. The other samples would depend on whether the patient is intubated.
Note: Relevant hospital staff to take appropriate PPE precautions when collecting respiratory specimens.

Samples to be marked ‘Urgent- ICU patient’ and taken to local pathology specimen reception area.

Samples are received in local pathology specimen reception area

• The swab and serum tube (if collected) and lower respiratory tract specimen (if available) are to be sent for SARS-CoV-2 testing using standard packaging and transport arrangements. This package should be clearly marked as ‘Specimens for Urgent SARS-CoV-2 testing’.
• The samples for SARS-CoV-2 testing are to be referred to one of the designated NSWHP SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratories (using usual sendaway arrangement):
  - NSWHP-ICPMR Westmead
  - NSWHP-Randwick (SAVID)
  - NSWHP-Liverpool
  - NSWHP-Royal Prince Alfred
  - NSWHP-John Hunter
  - NSWHP-Royal North Shore
  - NSWHP-Lismore
  - NSWHP-Concord
  - NSWHP-Nepean
  - NSWHP-Wagga Wagga
  - NSWHP-Bega
  - NSWHP-Dubbo
• The swab sample can be tested at the local laboratory for common respiratory pathogens.

Testing is performed and results notified by the testing laboratory to the requesting clinician and Public Health Unit

NSWHP-ICPMR, Westmead CIDMLS
BH: (02) 8890 6255
AH: Call (02) 8890 5555 and ask for on-call clinical microbiologist

NSWHP-Randwick SAVID
BH: (02) 9382 9133 or (02) 9382 9207
AH: Call (02) 9382 2222 and ask for on-call clinical microbiologist

NSWHP-Liverpool
BH: (02) 8738 5124 or (02) 8738 5140
AH: Call (02) 8738 3000 and ask for the on-call clinical microbiologist.

NSWHP-Royal Prince Alfred, Camperdown
BH: (02) 9515 6437
AH: Call (02) 9515 6111 and ask for on-call clinical microbiologist.

NSWHP-John Hunter
BH: 1800 801 949 or (02) 4921 4000
AF: Call (02) 4921 3000 and ask for on-call clinical microbiologist.

NSWHP-Royal North Shore, St Leonards
BH: (02) 9926 4333
AH: Call (02) 9926 7111 and ask for on-call clinical microbiologist.

NSWHP-Lismore
BH: (02) 6620 2921
AH: (02) 6620 2928

NSWHP-Concord
Mon-Fri 8.30am-9pm
Sat-Sun 8.30am-5pm
(02) 9767 6658 or 9767 6642. Outside these hours call (02) 9767 5000 and ask for Infectious Diseases lab.

NSWHP-Nepean
BH: (02) 4734 2180
AH: (02) 4734 2000 and ask for on-call clinical microbiologist.

NSWHP-Public Health Pathology
Email: Vishal.Ahuja@health.nsw.gov.au
NSW Public Health Units 1300 066 055 (24 hours)