

COVID-19 tests kits reserved only for people who meet case criteria

because we care



**PLATINUM
HEALTH**

There are currently a worldwide shortage of COVID-19 test kits and therefore it is imperative that tests are reserved for those people whose doctors find that they meet specific case criteria.

To get access to testing you must meet certain clinical criteria which is based on clear testing guidelines set out by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) - which falls under the National Department of Health.

Patients must meet the COVID-19 case criteria which indicate that they:

- Have a severe acute respiratory illness, with fever or history of fever and cough with pneumonia, or
- Have acute respiratory distress syndrome (based on the clinical signs or X-ray findings) that requires you to be admitted to hospital, and
- Have a documented travel history to any country where COVID-19 has occurred within 14 days before symptoms start, or
- Have had close physical contact with a person with COVID-19 while they had symptoms, or
- Have had close contact with patients with severe acute respiratory infections.

If you suspect that you have COVID-19 and require non-urgent medical care, contact your doctor telephonically to allow them to assess your level of risk for the COVID-19 virus. They will guide you as to what to do next.

It is preferable that you do not go to your doctor's consulting rooms as you risk exposing other patients to COVID-19.

Your doctor should be given fair warning that they may be dealing with a patient who has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 to allow them to prepare in every way to care for you and protect themselves and others from exposure through you.

Your doctor will guide you as to the next steps you need to take to get you the specific care you need, and explain how to obtain samples for testing from you, if they feel a COVID-19 test is warranted.

