

15 March 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202200696

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) received on 25 January 2022. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

Could a triple layered balaclava with the nose and mouth part that is closed off meet the face mask criteria or even a ski mask when out in public? From what I've read it would meet the criteria but I wanted to seek the ministry's guidance for the avoidance of any doubt. Is there a legal definition?

The guidance on what constitutes and describes a face mask is that it is required to be attached to the face by loops/straps around the ears/head. Face masks must cover a person's nose and mouth and if a re-useable mask, recommended to consist of 3 layers. A balaclava, scarf or ski mask does not meet the guidance criteria.

Policy document including any legal documents around the use of face masks and their effectiveness when out in public areas.

The Ministry does not hold any information relating to this part of your request, however I have been advised that this information is more closely connected with the functions of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). This part of your request was transferred to DPMC on 10 March 2022 and you can expect a response to this parts from them in due course.

Government COVID-19 meeting minutes from MOH where Dr Bloomfield has been in attendance

On 16 February 2022 the Ministry contacted you and asked under section 18(A) to refine your request by selecting a shorter timeframe or specifying a more specific topic. As explained in email correspondence, Dr Bloomfield has attended numerous meetings about COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic in 2020 with a COVID-19 context or content. Collating this information would be broad and substantial, from internal Ministry meetings to meetings with Ministers, and those with numerous stakeholders across the health sector. As you did not narrow the scope of your request, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

How much the Ministry has spent on seeking legal advice on COVID-19 related matters including representation by crown lawyers at court cases

The Ministry legal team can confirm that \$2,026,103 has been spent on seeking legal advice on COVID-19 related matters.

MOH process document for when a person tests positive for COVID-19

One document has been identified in scope of this part of your request and is attached to this letter. There are three main care pathways for a person who has COVID-19. The attached document describes the pathways and is intended for those interested in understanding the general path for Care in the Community. As this document only provides point-in-time data for the process used in the present moment, it is under regular review. In addition to the attached document, please note there is a similar step-by-step process for COVID-19 cases on the Unite Against Covid website at: covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/if-you-have-covid-19/

I trust this fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Nāku noa, nā



Kirsten Stephenson
Group Manager
COVID-19 Strategic Operations

COVID-19 Care in the Community

Care management pathways

Overview of the three care management pathways

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

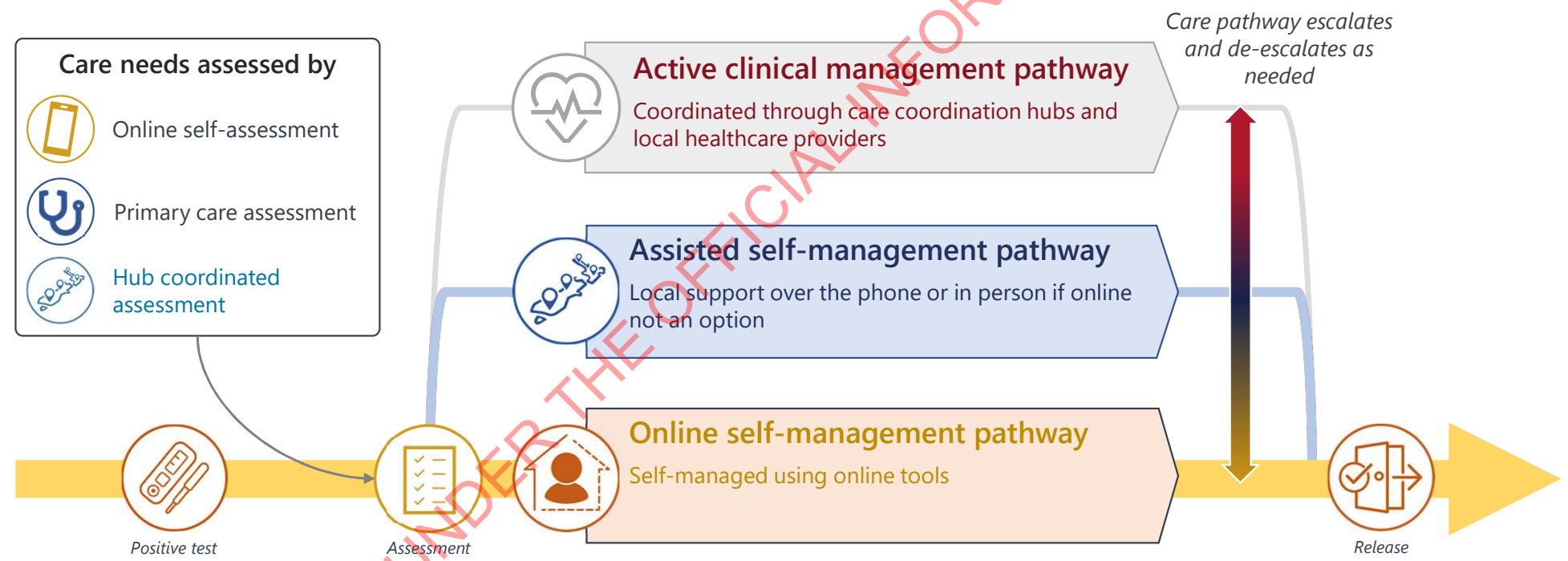


Unite
against
COVID-19

COVID-19 Care in the Community

Care management pathways

Most cases will be able to self-manage and will follow the yellow and blue self-management pathways. Cases requiring more clinical support will receive active clinical management following the red pathway.

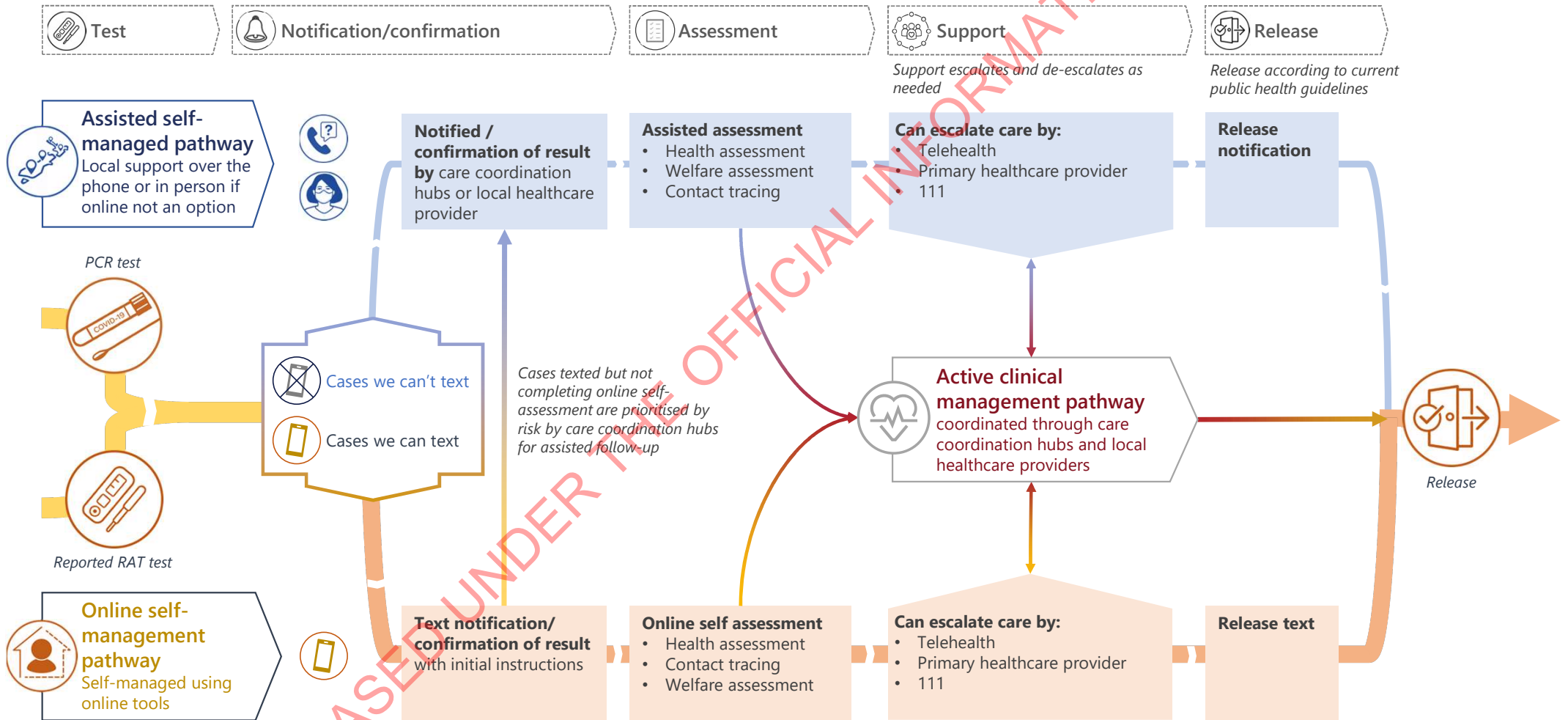


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COVID-19 Care in the Community

Self-management pathways

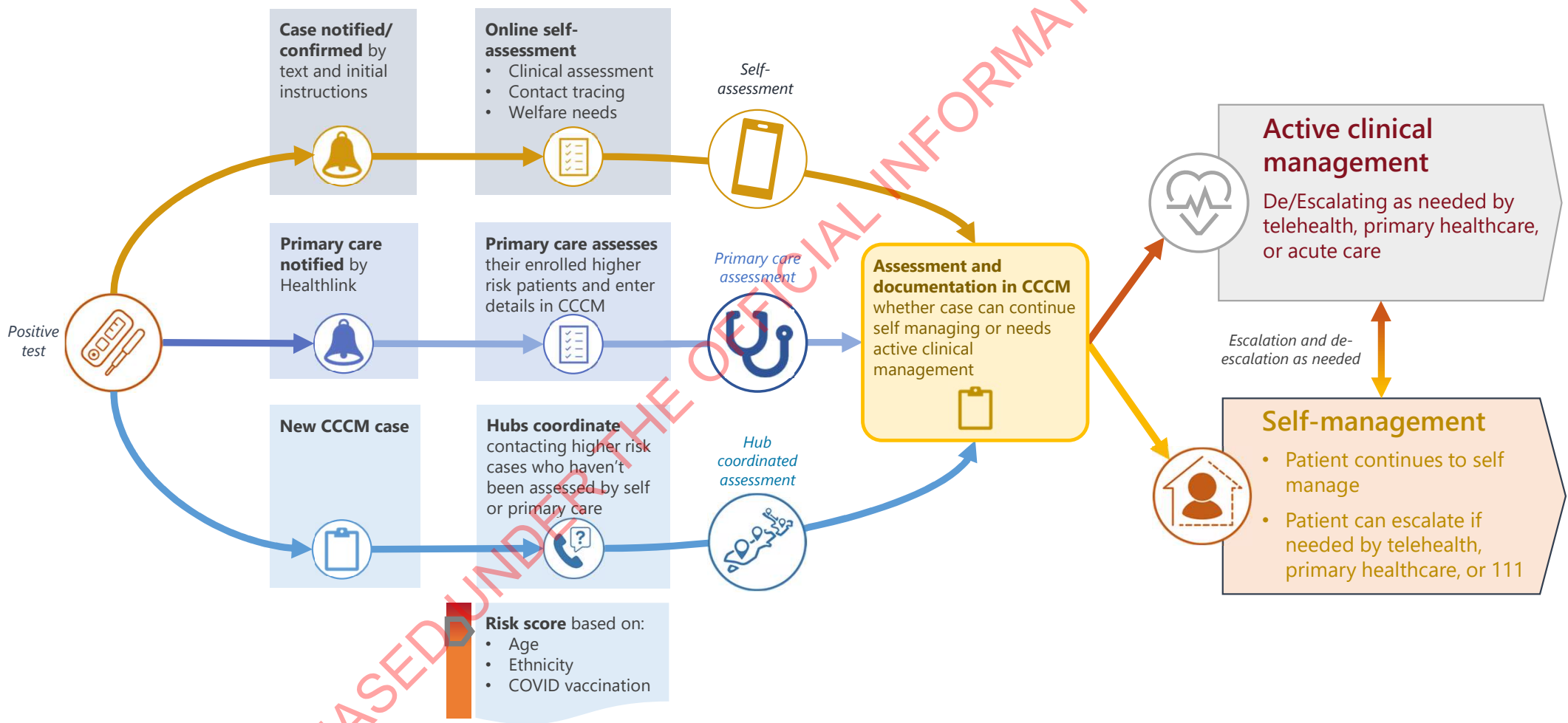
Most cases will be able to self-manage and will follow the yellow and blue self-management pathways. Cases requiring more clinical support will receive active clinical management following the red pathway.



COVID-19 Care in the Community

Assessing healthcare needs

Cases will self-manage by default but can escalate to active clinical management if indicated by their self-assessment, their primary healthcare provider's assessment, or contact coordinated by their care coordination hub



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