Caring for adults and children in the community with COVID-19 (RAT and PCR positive)
Flow chart and care protocols as at January 12, 2022

1. Positive rapid antigen test (RAT)
   - Patient registers positive result on Service NSW website (Service NSW app to follow)

2. LOW RISK
   - Patient completes 1st online questionnaire (short) on Service NSW website (app to follow)
   - Self-management
     - Information sent to patient
     - De-isolation

3. INCREASED RISK
   - MAY MEET CRITERIA FOR DISEASE MODIFYING TREATMENT
   - 2nd online questionnaire (detailed)
   - OR
     - Call with symptoms to NSW Health COVID-19 Care at Home line 1800 960 933 (8.30am-8.30pm)
   - Meets criteria for disease modifying treatments and/or
     - Moderate symptoms AND high risk

4. HIGH RISK
   - Patient receives SMS with link to 2nd online questionnaire (detailed)
   - LHD Community COVID and specialty teams
     - Consider disease modifying treatments
     - Manage according to local pathways
   - Clinical de-isolation for
     - immunocompromised
     - prolonged illness

5. Positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test
   - Patient registered on NSW Patient Flow Systems (PFP)
   - LHDs may choose to use information from the PFP for further triage

**Acronyms:****
- RAT: Rapid Antigen Test
- PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction
COVID-19 care in the community: Care protocols for adults and children

**Low risk patients**
- Identified during 1st online questionnaire (short), 2nd online questionnaire (detailed) or call with symptoms

**Low care pathway**
- Patients receive information via Service NSW app
- Escalation phone numbers supplied

**High risk adults and children**
- Immunosuppressed
- Serious chronic or complex condition
- Pregnant
- Children with severe obesity

**Disease-modifying treatment pathway**
- Eligible patients are contacted by LHD
- GPs can refer eligible patients to LHD via NSW Health COVID-19 Care at Home line 1800 960 933 (8:30am-8:30pm)

**High care pathway**
- Patients with high risk and moderate symptoms are managed by the LHD according to local pathways
- This may include increased monitoring, involvement of patient’s specialists

**Consider for disease modifying treatment**
- Immunosuppressed, including:
  - Current or within 3 months of treatment for cancer
  - Organ transplant
  - Immunosuppressant medication
  - Immune deficiency
- Serious chronic health problems including heart, lung, kidney, brain, nerves or muscles, metabolic:
  - Seeing a specialist 4 or more times per year
  - Taking 4 or more different medications daily
  - Needing equipment to help their breathing – e.g. CPAP, BiPAP, home oxygen
  - Needing equipment to help with their feeding – e.g. nasogastric tube, gastrostomy (PEG)
- Severe obesity in children, indicated by weight over 99th percentile for age or Type 2 Diabetes (treated with oral medication)

**High Care Pathway - Consider for closer monitoring**
- Moderate Symptoms (also advised to contact their usual doctor if moderate symptoms) and
- Serious chronic health problems (including heart, lung, kidney, brain, nerves or muscles, metabolic), for example:
  - Seeing a specialist 4 or more times per year
  - Taking 4 or more different medications daily
  - Needing equipment to help their breathing – e.g. CPAP, BiPAP, home oxygen
  - Needing equipment to help with their feeding – e.g. nasogastric tube, gastrostomy (PEG)
  - Severe asthma, as indicated by:
    - Admitted to hospital 4 or more times in the last year
    - Admitted to intensive care because of their asthma (ever)
    - On monoclonal treatments for asthma
    - Prompt to take their usual preventer medicine, follow their asthma plan, contact their doctor
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