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To	Directors, Presidents, Area Executives and Members
From	Dom Kalasih, General Manager Industry

Omicron Phase 3

Purpose

This advisory informs you of Government's announcement today that from 11:59pm tonight (Thursday, 24 February), Omicron Phase 3 conditions will apply.

The three major changes

Isolation

From midnight tonight, close contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate and only confirmed cases and household contacts of a confirmed case will be required to do so. Confirmed cases and household contacts should isolate for 10 days but can now self-release after day 10, providing any testing requirements are met. If they develop symptoms, they are encouraged to test sooner.

The close contact critical worker exemption scheme continues to operate and conditionally enables the return to work of household contacts.

Testing

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) will become the primary form of testing for people who have symptoms or are household contacts of a confirmed case. For those people, testing will remain free. Locations that have RATs available can be found on the HealthPoint website [here](#).

PCR testing will be reserved for people where it is clinically indicated they need it. A PCR test will no longer be required to verify a positive RAT result.

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Approved RATs will soon be able to be sold to the public through retail outlets. This will provide choice and access for the general public and businesses.

Contact tracing

Contact tracing teams will now focus on identifying and tracing those who have visited these high-risk locations such as a hospital or aged care facility.

More information

The Government's media release can be found [here](#).

The Ministry of Health's information about rapid antigen testing can be found [here](#).

Information about Phase 3 and managing your health can be found [here](#).

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