Who can be tested?

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Who can be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) is required for anyone who has symptoms and in very specific circumstances for people who do not have symptoms.

People who have symptoms

Anyone with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), no matter how mild, should get tested and then stay home.

Common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, and loss or change in sense of smell or taste. In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered.

People with no symptoms in limited circumstances

People with no symptoms can also be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) in very specific circumstances:

- if they are a close contact exposed to someone known to have coronavirus (COVID-19)
- as part of an outbreak investigation and response by the Department of Health
- if they are a returned international traveller
- if they are due to have surgery or a planned hospital stay
- if they are part of a targeted testing program across an industry or group

People who are close contacts

If someone is a close contact of someone with a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19), the Department of Health will get in contact to inform them that they are a close contact. A close contact must quarantine at home for 14 days since their last contact with the confirmed case. The Department of Health will give them instructions on how and when to get a test.

People who are part of an outbreak investigation

During an outbreak investigation, the Department of Health may request that a wider group of people get tested. These people will receive specific instructions from the Department of Health.

Returned international travellers

People who have recently returned from overseas and are in quarantine will be tested during their quarantine period.

People who are due to have surgery or a planned hospital stay

To limit the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our hospital system, doctors or surgeons will ask people to get tested before their surgery or appointment.

People who are part of a targeted industry or group

The Department of Health may sometimes ask people from specific groups or industries to be tested even if they do not have symptoms. This includes the testing requirements for high-risk industries.

How do I go out to get tested?

If possible, you should attend the testing clinic closest to your home and avoid using public transport, taxis or rideshare services.

After your test, if you have symptoms, you must return home immediately and stay at home until you receive your test result. This is referred to as 'self-isolating'. You must do this because there is a risk that you could have COVID-19 and infect other people. You must remain in self-isolation at home until you receive a negative test result. If you do not have any symptoms, you do not need to isolate. You can find more information under 'After the test'.

How do I stay healthy and protect others?

There are four key actions to keep yourself, your friends and your family safe.

- Stay at home and get tested if you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild.
- Practise good hygiene – wash your hands and cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- Keep your distance – stay 1.5 metres away from anyone you don't live with.
- Wear a face mask when you leave home.

To find out more information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and how to stay safe visit
DHHS.vic – coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

If you need an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450

For information in other languages, scan the QR code or visit
DHHS.vic –Translated resources - coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

For any questions
Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)
Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

To receive this document in another format phone 1300 651 160 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or Public Health branch <public.health@dhhs.vic.gov.au>.

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