



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Testing requirements policy

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Version 5.0

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of Health

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Background

This document describes the 'Testing Requirements Policy regarding the types of COVID-19 tests for cohorts covered by the ***Pandemic (Quarantine Isolation and Testing) Order***.

This document may be amended from time to time by the Secretary of the Department of Health.

Testing Requirements

| Classification | Mandatory Testing Requirements |
|--|---|
| Close contact | <p>A close contact with COVID-19 symptoms must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) upon symptom onset. Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, a close contact must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case). If the result is negative, the close contact must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) on the sixth day of the self-quarantine period.</p> <p>A close contact without COVID-19 symptoms must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) on the first and sixth day from when they are required to self-quarantine. Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, a close contact must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> <p>If the close contact is unable to access a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT), they must undertake a COVID-19 PCR test instead.</p> <p>It is recommended that a close contact undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) on three other days between the first and sixth day of self-quarantine.</p> <p><i>Note: this should be in accordance with the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure**.</i></p> <p><i>Note: A close contact who is electing to undertake surveillance testing instead of self-quarantine, must undertake 5 COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, spaced at least 24 hours apart, during the period commencing from the date the person became a close contact until the date the close contact's period of self-quarantine would have ended.</i></p> |
| International arrival (includes aircrew, maritime crew and passengers) | <p>An international arrival must undertake a COVID-19 PCR test or a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms within seven days after arrival in Australia.</p> |
| Social contact (includes contacts in workplaces and social settings) | <p>A social contact must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) or a COVID-19 PCR test if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and self-quarantine until they are notified of a negative result, or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.</p> |

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|--|---|
| | <p>Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, a social contact must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> |
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| Classification | Recommended Testing |
|--|---|
| <p>International arrival (includes aircrew, maritime crew and passengers)</p> | <p>An international arrival is recommended to undertake a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival in Victoria.</p> <p><i>Note: An asymptomatic international arrival undertaking a test, should undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) not a COVID-19 PCR test.</i></p> |
| <p>Social contact (includes contacts in workplaces and social settings)</p> | <p>A social contact without COVID-19 symptoms is strongly recommended to undertake daily COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) for five days following notification that they are a social contact.</p> <p>Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, a social contact must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> <p><i>Note: this is in accordance with the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.**</i></p> |
| <p>Symptomatic person in the community or a workplace (not a close contact or social contact)</p> | <p>A symptomatic person in the community or a workplace (who is not a close contact or social contact) who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms is recommended to undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) or a COVID-19 PCR test as soon as possible after symptom onset, and self-quarantine until they receive a negative result or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, they must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> |
| <p>Asymptomatic person in the community (not a close contact or social contact)</p> | <p>An asymptomatic person is a person in the community or a workplace who is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Should a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, an asymptomatic person in the community must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> <p>It is recommended for an asymptomatic person in the community to confirm a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) with a COVID-19 PCR test.</p> |

Definitions (in **bold**) can be found in the ***Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order***.

* The Department of Health can be notified via the COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form online at <https://dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapid-antigen-test> or call centre on 1800 675 398.

The **COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure means if a person completed a COVID-19 rapid antigen test:

- the person must undertake a second **COVID-19 rapid antigen test** as soon as possible if the person receives an invalid test result from the first **COVID-19 rapid antigen test**, such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is a negative test result; and
- if the result of the second **COVID-19 rapid antigen test** is invalid such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is negative, the person must complete a **COVID-19 PCR test** within 24 hours and remain in **self-quarantine** until the person receives a negative test result.