

COVID PEAK

Information for staff participating in asymptomatic surveillance testing

Updated 28 August 2021



Western Health

COVID - 19

Be Safe -- Be Smart -- Be Kind

Thank you for participating in asymptomatic staff testing

Asymptomatic testing helps detect infection early, before symptoms even have time to develop. Early identification of COVID-19 helps to protect family, colleagues and patients and enables Western Health to support our staff early.

What testing is involved for staff participating in the asymptomatic surveillance testing program?

Testing is comprised of four saliva samples & one nasal/ throat swab once every 7 days, to continue for two weeks from the last time you were considered to have been to an exposure location or had contact with a COVID-19 positive or high risk suspected COVID patients.

When should I have my tests?

Tests should be staggered throughout the fortnight, and should generally be completed on all days attending work. An example of a suitable schedule for testing is as follows:

Day 0 Enrolment	Day 1 Saliva test	Day 2	Day 3 Saliva test	Day 4 Saliva test	Day 5	Day 6 Saliva test	Day 7 Swab
	Day 8 Saliva	Day 9	Day 10 Saliva test	Day 11 Saliva test	Day 12	Day 13 Saliva test	Day 14 Swab

Do I have to isolate while waiting for my results?

Staff participating in asymptomatic testing do not need to isolate while awaiting their test result and can continue to work and go about their daily lives.

How do I collect a saliva sample?

Saliva testing kits are available at any of WH COVID-19 Testing Clinics during opening hours. Opening hours are found on the Coronavirus microsite - <https://coronavirus.wh.org.au/>.

You will need to attend one of these locations to register and collect your kit. Please refer to the instructions on the following page as to how to collect your saliva swab. Please drop the

swab off at one of WH COVID-19 Testing Clinics as soon as possible. You will need to speak with a nurse who will confirm your details and take some information from you.

How do I arrange a nasal/throat swab?

You can walk up to any of WH COVID-19 Testing Clinics during opening hours. Opening hours are found on the Coronavirus microsite - <https://coronavirus.wh.org.au/>.

How do I prepare my saliva sample?

Perform hand hygiene before and after collecting the sample. Clean down any surfaces used whilst collecting the sample with the green Clinell disinfectant wipes to prevent potential environmental cross contamination. See the following page for further instructions.

Saliva Collection Instructions - swab option

1. Fill in collection form - with participant name address, date-of-birth and mobile phone number.
2. Label collection tube with participant name, and date-of-birth.
3. Participant to place in mouth and suck on the swab for 30 seconds until saturated. Open mouth and remove swab.
4. Participant to place the swab into the tube, and break off excess shaft at the pink marker.
6. Reseal the individually labelled collection tube.
7. Place collection tube into Ziploc section of the specimen bag and place folded request form into open pouch of Ziploc bag.



Frequently asked questions

Am I required to complete all 10 tests if I work part-time hours?

It is not expected that you participate in testing on your days off. Part time staff should prioritise the nasal/ throat swabs as these have a higher sensitivity to COVID-19.

Can someone else drop off my saliva test for me?

No, we need you to drop off your own samples so that the clinician entering the sample can check your identity.

Who will have access to my information?

Your information will only be accessed by the COVID-19 Testing Clinic staff to process your COVID-19 tests, and by the COVID Response team to prepare anonymous reports for the Victorian Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance (VICNISS).

How will I receive my results?

All staff will receive their results via text or phone call.