

# Pathology Testing Priority COVID19 PCR



COVID - 19

Be Safe – Be Smart – Be Kind

Last updated: 23rd September, 2021

## Who should read this?

Clinical staff at Footscray and Sunshine Hospital considering requesting priority COVID19 PCR testing

## What is this document about?

Provides direction as to which patients and Western Health clinical staff involved in direct patient care should be considered for expedited COVID19 PCR testing and how this test is to be ordered and delivered to the on-site laboratory.

## Background

Western Health has three test priorities available for COVID-19 PCR testing:

1. Rapid
  - a. Cepheid - Xpert® Xpress – onsite individual sample testing (1-2 samples at a time, 60-minute assay time\*) undertaken at Footscray and Sunshine Hospital
2. Fast track (BD MAX®) – on site batch testing (24 samples per run, four-hour assay time) undertaken at Sunshine Hospital
3. Routine outpatient - COVID19 PCR testing undertaken at Dorevitch Heidelberg laboratory (anticipated turnaround time following specimen receipt at Heidelberg 48 hours)

\* Note – assay time excludes time taken in ordering, collecting, delivering and preparing specimen

There are limitations to specimens that may be requested via the Rapid and Fast Track COVID19 testing pathways. For Western Health patients the following steps must be adhered to when requesting a COVID19 PCR test. This guidance is relevant to current expectations but may alter over time.

## COVID-19 PCR testing priority and process

	<b>RAPID Footscray and Sunshine onsite testing</b>	<b>FAST TRACK Sunshine onsite testing</b>
<b>Performed</b>	Sunshine	Sunshine
<b>Specimen</b>	Can only to be used for swabs <b>NOT</b> sputum/saliva	Can only to be used for swabs <b>NOT</b> sputum/saliva
<b>Indication/ Criteria</b>	<p>Can be de-isolated with a single naso-pharyngeal swab result: AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Contract tracing (including patients that develop Covid19 Symptoms during their inpatient stay)</li> <li>ii. ED-based acute mental health patients requiring testing</li> <li>iii. For public health purposes requested by Head of WPHU or delegate</li> </ol> <p>Requests outside of these indications will not be accepted which includes testing pre-operative and pre-transfer testing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can be de-isolated with a single naso-pharyngeal swab result: AND                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. New inpatients requiring testing</li> <li>ii. Current inpatients requiring testing</li> <li>iii. Symptomatic Western Health staff</li> <li>iv. ED-based acute mental health patients requiring testing</li> <li>v. Testing as part of contact tracing as directed by infection prevention</li> <li>vi. Suspected outpatients who are close contacts of a confirmed case</li> <li>vii. As negotiated with Dorevitch and Western Public Health Unit HOU or delegate</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Approval</b>	De-isolation HMO / Infection prevention	Nil

	<b>RAPID Footscray and Sunshine onsite testing</b>	<b>FAST TRACK Sunshine onsite testing</b>
<b>Requesting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order Rapid COVID-19 PCR via EMR; include position and name of person authorising Rapid test</li> <li>Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label;</li> <li>Place label indicating Rapid/Fast Track (see appendix) and specimen into specimen bag;</li> <li><u>Hand deliver</u> specimen to the onsite laboratory staff, <u>stating 'this is for a rapid test'</u>. The sample must be handed to laboratory staff – <b>DO NOT</b> leave unattended on the bench.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order Fast Track COVID-19 PCR via EMR (as per standard test);</li> <li>Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label corresponding with request;</li> <li>Place label indicating Rapid/Fast Track (see appendix) and specimen into specimen bag;</li> <li>Usual systems for laboratory specimen delivery</li> </ol>
<b>Expected Turnaround Time (TAT)</b>	1-4 hours	4-10 hours based on testing workload and need to batch specimens
<b>Limitations/ considerations</b>		Result TAT will depend on the total number of fast track specimens requested and laboratory requirements for additional testing (sample/instrument error etc)
	Williamstown samples will require transfer to Sunshine via Dorevitch courier; the courier operates from 08:30 (M-F)/09:40 (S/S) to 23:20 (M-F)/20:50 (S/S)	Footscray and Williamstown samples will require transfer to Sunshine via Dorevitch courier; the courier operates from 08:30 (M-F)/09:40 (S/S) to 23:20 (M-F)/20:50 (S/S)
		Fast track testing will not be available between 2200 – 0830 hours. Fast track tests collected during these hours will be placed on the first run of the BD Max; if the result is required more urgently consider seeking approval for a rapid test.
	If requesting a respiratory viral PCR ( <b>rapid or multiplex</b> ) a second swab is required	

	<b>ROUTINE Heidelberg-based testing</b>
<b>Performed</b>	Heidelberg
<b>Specimen</b>	Can be used for swabs <b>AND</b> sputum <b>AND</b> saliva
<b>Indication/ Criteria</b>	As per the COVID-19 Testing Criteria, Risk Categorisation, De-isolating and Cohorting Guideline.
<b>Approval</b>	nil
<b>Requesting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order routine COVID-19 PCR via EMR</li> <li>Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label;</li> <li>Place specimen into specimen bag;</li> <li>Placed in boxes according to priority and hand delivered to laboratory in batches</li> </ol>
<b>Expected TAT</b>	24 hrs from sample arriving <u>at Heidelberg</u>
<b>Limitations/ considerations</b>	As per the COVID-19 Testing Criteria, Risk Categorisation, De-isolating and Cohorting Guideline.

Please circle test priority

**Rapid/Fast  
Track  
COVID-19  
Swab**