

COVID PEAK

Information for staff participating in asymptomatic surveillance testing

Updated 17 October 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 have time to develop. Early identification of COVID-19 helps to protect family, colleagues and patients and enables Western Health to support 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

Staff who work in areas that consistently care for high risk SCOVID or COVID patients (such as EDs, ICU and COVID or SCOVID wards) should be on a rolling, ongoing weekly program of testing.

Staff working in other areas who have a single contact with a high risk SCOVID or COVID patient should participate in the surveillance program for 2 weeks after the contact with the patient occurred.

If staff working in areas consistently caring for high risk SCOVID or COVID patients cease working in those areas (such as EDs, ICU and COVID or SCOVID wards), and move to another area of work, they should continue with the surveillance program for 2 weeks after they moved areas.

When should I have my tests?

Tests should be staggered throughout the week, 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
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The schedule should be repeated weekly for staff working in areas consistently caring for COVID and high risk SCOVID patients (such as EDs, ICUs and COVID or SCOVID wards), or for a fortnight after exposure to a high risk SCOVID or COVID patients for staff who have a one off exposure.

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.

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.

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.