

Pathology Testing Priority COVID19 PCR



COVID - 19

Be Safe – Be Smart – Be Kind

Last updated: 14 February 2022

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
 - b. Roche - Liat's – onsite individual sample testing (1 sample at a time, 30-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 24 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

	RAPID Footscray and Sunshine onsite testing	FAST TRACK Sunshine onsite testing
Performed	Sunshine & Footscray	Sunshine
Specimen	Can only to be used for swabs NOT sputum/saliva	Can only to be used for swabs NOT sputum/saliva
Indication/ Criteria	<p>Can be de-isolated with a single naso-pharyngeal swab result: AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Contact tracing (including patients that develop Covid19 Symptoms during their inpatient stay) ii. ED-based acute mental health patients requiring testing iii. For public health purposes requested by Head of WPHU or delegate iv. Patients exhibiting AGBs, or wandering patients unable to be contained within their room v. RAT positive and eligible for COVID specific treatment (eg sotrovimab, paxlovid) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can be de-isolated with a single naso-pharyngeal swab result: AND <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. New inpatients requiring testing ii. Current inpatients requiring testing iii. Symptomatic Western Health staff iv. Testing as part of contact tracing as directed by infection prevention v. As negotiated with Dorevitch and Western Public Health Unit HOU or delegate

	RAPID Footscray and Sunshine onsite testing	FAST TRACK Sunshine onsite testing
	Requests outside of these indications will not be accepted which includes testing pre-operative and pre-transfer testing.	
Approval	De-isolation HMO / Infection prevention	Nil
Requesting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order Rapid COVID-19 PCR via EMR; include position and name of person authorising Rapid test 2. Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label; 3. Place label indicating Rapid/Fast Track (see appendix) and specimen into specimen bag; 4. <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 – <u>DO NOT</u> leave unattended on the bench. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order Fast Track COVID-19 PCR via EMR (as per standard test); 2. Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label corresponding with request; 3. Place label indicating Rapid/Fast Track (see appendix) and specimen into specimen bag; 4. Usual systems for laboratory specimen delivery
Expected Turnaround Time (TAT)	1-4 hours	4-10 hours based on testing workload and need to batch specimens
Limitations/ considerations		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 <i>may</i> 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, or sent to Heidelberg for processing; if the result is required more urgently consider seeking approval for a rapid test.
	If requesting a respiratory viral PCR (rapid or multiplex) a second swab is required	

	ROUTINE Heidelberg-based testing
Performed	Heidelberg
Specimen	Can be used for swabs AND sputum AND saliva
Indication/ Criteria	As per the COVID-19 Testing Criteria, Risk Categorisation, De-isolating and Cohorting Guideline.
Approval	nil
Requesting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order routine COVID-19 PCR via EMR 2. Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label; 3. Place specimen into specimen bag; 4. Placed in boxes according to priority and hand delivered to laboratory in batches
Expected TAT	24 hrs from sample arriving at Heidelberg
Inpatient discharges to Residential Care Facility	All WH inpatient, prior to discharge to a Nursing home, are to receive a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT), instead of a Routine PCR.
Limitations/ considerations	As per the COVID-19 Testing Criteria, Risk Categorisation, De-isolating and Cohorting Guideline.

Please circle test priority

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