

Pathology Testing Priority COVID19 PCR



COVID - 19

Be Safe – Be Smart – Be Kind

Last updated: 4 August 2022

Who should read this?

Clinical staff at Footscray, Sunshine, Williamstown, and Joan Kirner 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.
 - i. EMR order name: Rapid SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), Influenza & RSV Rapid NAD/PCR
 - ii. This will test for:
 1. SARS-CoV-2
 2. Influenza A
 3. Influenza B
 4. RSV
- b. **Roche - Liat** – onsite individual sample testing (1 sample at a time, 30-minute assay time*) undertaken at Footscray and Sunshine Hospital.
 - i. EMR order name: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) & Influenza Rapid NAD/PCR
 - ii. This will test for:
 1. SARS-CoV-2

2. **Fast track (BD MAX®)** – on site batch testing (24 samples per run, four-hour assay time*) undertaken at Sunshine Hospital.
 - i. EMR order name: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Fast Track NAD/PCR Swab
 - ii. This will test for: SARS-CoV-2 **only**

3. **Routine** - COVID19 PCR testing undertaken at Dorevitch Heidelberg laboratory (anticipated turnaround time following specimen receipt at Heidelberg 24 hours).
 - i. EMR order name: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Routine NAD/PCR Swab
 - ii. This will test for: SARS-CoV-2 **only**

Note: for EMR order: Respiratory Virus Multiplex NAD/PCR – this test is performed at Heidelberg on the SeeGene machine. This will test for:

- i. Influenza A & B
- ii. RSV
- iii. Parainfluenza
- iv. Adenovirus
- v. Human Metapneumovirus
- vi. Rhinovirus

* 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Contact tracing (including patients that develop Covid19 symptoms during their inpatient stay) ii. Expected admissions for ED-based acute mental health patients requiring testing iii. ED pre-defined testing protocols iv. For public health purposes requested by Medical Lead WPHU or delegate v. Patients exhibiting AGBs, or wandering patients unable to be contained within their room vi. RAT positive and eligible for COVID specific treatment (e.g. Paxlovid) vii. As indicated in the latest COVID-19 Testing Criteria, Risk Categorisation, De-isolation and Bed Allocation Guideline <p>Requests outside of these indications will not be accepted which includes testing pre-operative and pre-transfer testing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. As indicated in the latest COVID-19 Testing Criteria, Risk Categorisation, De-isolation and Bed Allocation Guideline ii. Symptomatic inpatients if not meeting criteria for rapid iii. Symptomatic Western Health staff iv. Testing as part of contact tracing as directed by infection prevention v. As negotiated with Dorevitch and Medical Lead WPHU or delegate
Approval	Nil	Nil
Requesting	<p>Order in EMR: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Rapid NAD/PCR OR Rapid SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), Influenza & RSV Rapid NAD/PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. via EMR; include position and name of person authorising Rapid test 2. Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label; 3. Covid-19 PCR specimen swabs, can now be sent to pathology via the pneumatic tube system, as long as they are placed in a pathology bag and pneumatic chute tube. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Fast Track NAD/PCR Swab via EMR 2. Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label corresponding with request; 3. Usual systems for laboratory specimen delivery
Expected Turnaround Time (TAT)	1-4 hours	<p>4-10 hours based on testing workload and need to batch specimens</p> <p>Result TAT will depend on the total number of fast-track specimens requested and laboratory requirements for additional testing (sample/instrument error etc.)</p>
Limitations/ considerations	<p>RAPID test from Williamstown samples will require transfer to Footscray via Dorevitch courier; the courier operates from 09:20 (M-F) to 22:20 (M-F), Weekend courier is as per request basis.</p> <p>If requesting a Respiratory Virus Multiplex NAD/PCR (e.g. rapid and multiplex) a second swab is required</p>	<p>All FAST-TRACK 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). Processing of these tests from Footscray between 22:00 – 08:30 may not be available. If the result is required more urgently consider seeking approval for a rapid test.</p>

	ROUTINE Heidelberg-based testing
Performed	Heidelberg
Specimen	Can be used for swabs OR sputum OR saliva
Indication/ Criteria	As per the COVID-19 Testing Criteria, Risk Categorisation, De-isolating and Cohorting Guideline or if not meeting criteria for rapid or fast track priority
Approval	nil
Requesting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Routine NAD/PCR Swab via EMR 2. Collect sample and label with EMR specimen label; 3. Place specimen into specimen bag; 4. Usual systems for laboratory specimen delivery
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.