



# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Testing Requirements Policy

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Department  
of Health

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## Background

This document describes the 'Testing Requirements Policy' regarding the types of COVID-19 tests for cohorts covered by the ***Pandemic (Quarantine Isolation and Testing) Order***.

This document may be amended from time to time by the Secretary of the Department of Health.

## Testing Requirements

Classification	Mandatory Testing Requirements
Close contact	<p><b><u>Close contact self-quarantining for 7 days (with symptoms)</u></b></p> <p>A close contact with <u>COVID-19 symptoms</u> must undertake a COVID-19 <b>rapid antigen (RA) test</b> upon symptom onset. Should the RA test return a positive result, a close contact must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> <p>If the result is <b>negative</b>, the close contact <u>must</u> undertake a RA test on the sixth day of the seven-day self-quarantine period.</p> <p>It is recommended that a close contact undertake a RA test on three other days between the first and sixth day of self-quarantine (at least 24 hours apart).</p> <p>If the close contact is unable to access a RA test, they must undertake a COVID-19 PCR test instead.</p> <p>Symptomatic close contacts can proceed to a PCR if requested.</p> <p><i>Note: this should be in accordance with the <b>COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure</b>**.</i></p> <p><b><u>Close contact self-quarantining for 7 days (without symptoms)</u></b></p> <p>A close contact <u>without COVID-19 symptoms</u> must undertake a RA test on the first and sixth day from when they are required to self-quarantine. Should the RA test return a positive result, a close contact must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case)</p> <p>It is recommended that a <b>close contact</b> undertake a RA test on three other days between the first and sixth day of self-quarantine.</p> <p>If the close contact is unable to access a RA test, they must undertake a COVID-19 PCR test instead.</p> <p><i>Note: this should be in accordance with the <b>COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure</b>**.</i></p>

	<p><b><u>Close contact undertaking daily surveillance testing instead of self-quarantine</u></b></p> <p>A close contact who is electing to undertake surveillance testing instead of self-quarantine, <b>must undertake five COVID-19 rapid antigen tests</b>, in each 24-hour period, during the period commencing from the date the person became a close contact until the date the close contact's period of self-quarantine would have ended.</p> <p>A close contact can request a PCR test and must self-quarantine while they are awaiting results of a PCR test.</p> <p>If a close contact <b>develops symptoms</b> at any time during their household contact period, they are recommended to undertake a RA test as soon as possible and <b>isolate until symptoms resolve</b>. Symptomatic close contacts can proceed to a PCR if requested.</p> <p>Note: A close contact opting to undertake surveillance testing in lieu of self-quarantine must follow all other requirements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wear a mask indoors when outside of their home</li> <li>• do not visit hospitals or care facilities</li> <li>• notify their employer or education facility.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: A PCR test represents a point in time diagnosis. A close contact must still use a RA test for 5 days of the contact period, or isolate for 7 days, even if undertaking a PCR test and receive a negative result.</i></p> <p><i>By undertaking regular RA tests, a close contact is able to undertake most ordinary activities whilst still monitoring for COVID-19, given the likelihood of continuous exposure in a household during this timeframe.</i></p> <p><i>Note: this should be in accordance with the <b>COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure</b>**.</i></p>
<p><b>Social contact</b></p> <p><b>(Includes contacts in workplaces and social settings)</b></p>	<p>A <b>social contact</b> must undertake a RA test or a PCR test (if there are no RA tests available) if experiencing COVID-19 <b>symptoms</b> and self-quarantine until they are notified of a negative result, or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>Should the RA test return a positive result, a social contact must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a <b>probable case</b>).</p> <p><i>Note: this should be in accordance with the <b>COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure</b>**.</i></p>

Classification	Recommended Testing
<p><b>International arrival</b> <b>(Includes aircrew, maritime crew, and passengers)</b></p>	<p>An <b>international arrival</b> is recommended to undertake a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival in Victoria.</p> <p><i>Note: An asymptomatic international arrival undertaking a test, should undertake a RA test not a COVID-19 PCR test.</i></p> <p>An international arrival should undertake a RA test <b>if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms</b> and can request a PCR if a RA test is unavailable</p> <p><i>Note: this should be in accordance with the <b>COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure</b>**.</i></p>
<p><b>Social contact</b> <b>(includes contacts in workplaces and social settings)</b></p>	<p>A social contact <u>without COVID-19 symptoms</u> is strongly recommended to undertake daily RA testing for five days following notification that they are a social contact.</p> <p>Should the RA test return a <b>positive result</b>, a social contact must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a <b>probable case</b>).</p> <p><i>Note: this is in accordance with the <b>COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure</b>**.</i></p>
<p><b>Symptomatic person in the community or a workplace (not a close contact or social contact)</b></p>	<p>A person in the community or a workplace (who is not a close contact or social contact) who is experiencing <b>COVID-19 symptoms</b> is recommended to undertake a RA test or a COVID-19 PCR test as soon as possible after symptom onset, and self-quarantine until they receive a negative result or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>Should the RA test return a positive result, they must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case). A confirmatory PCR test is not required.</p> <p><i>Note: this should be in accordance with the <b>COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure</b>**.</i></p>
<p><b>Asymptomatic person in the community (not a close contact or social contact)</b></p>	<p>An asymptomatic person is a person in the community (who is not a close contact or social contact) and is <b>not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms</b>.</p> <p>Should a RA test return a positive result, an asymptomatic person in the community must notify the Department of Health* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a <b>probable case</b>).</p> <p>It is recommended for an asymptomatic person in the community to confirm a positive RA test with a COVID-19 PCR test if they have received two positive RA test results on two consecutive days.</p>

	<i>Note: this should be in accordance with the <b>COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure</b>**.</i>
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\* The Department of Health can be notified via the COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form online at <https://dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapid-antigen-test> or call centre on 1800 675 398.

\*\*The **COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure** means if a person completed a COVID-19 rapid antigen test:

- the person must undertake a second **COVID-19 rapid antigen test** as soon as possible if the person receives an invalid test result from the first **COVID-19 rapid antigen test**, such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is a negative test result; and
- if the result of the second **COVID-19 rapid antigen test** is invalid such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is negative, the person must complete a **COVID-19 PCR test** within 24 hours and remain in **self-quarantine** until the person receives a negative test result.