



Coronavirus (COVID-19) – getting tested when you do not have symptoms

What you need to know

You have volunteered to be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) without having symptoms. You do not need to self-isolate while you wait for your results and can go to work or go about your usual activities whilst continuing to follow the current directions that are in place. Please read this information carefully.

Why am I being tested even though I don't have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is investigating how widespread coronavirus (COVID-19) is in the community. There is a small chance that you have coronavirus (COVID-19) even though you feel well and don't have any symptoms. It is possible that people without symptoms pass on coronavirus (COVID-19) to other people without knowing it.

Who is being asked to volunteer to be tested?

DHHS is undertaking voluntarily testing in some groups of people when they do not have symptoms and where testing can be made easily accessible. This includes workers who cannot easily work from home in construction, supermarket, healthcare and emergency services jobs. It also includes people with a chronic illness and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, who may be at risk of more severe coronavirus (COVID-19) disease.

What do I need to do?

You will be asked to provide contact details and to answer some brief questions, including checking whether you may have any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

You will be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) by a nurse, doctor or other health professional. The test is a swab of the back of your throat or nose and takes about a minute.

Who will provide my results?

The health service or doctor that has arranged your test is responsible for providing you with your results. It may take a few days for the test results to come back. The coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline cannot provide test results.

What should I do while I am waiting for the test results?

It may take a few days for your test results to come back. If you are feeling well, you can continue to work and go about your usual activities, following the current directions that are in place.

What happens if my test is negative?

If your test is negative, you can continue to work and go about your usual activities, whilst continuing to follow the current directions that are in place.

However, if you develop symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), you must self-isolate and not go to work. You will also need to be tested again.

What happens if my test is positive?

A Public Health Officer from the Department of Health and Human Services will contact you to get more information and tell you what to do. They will also give you a telephone number to call if you need to. If necessary, a specialist may be involved to further assess your situation and help get you the support you need.

It is important that you stay in your home or accommodation until a Public Health Officer advises that you are no longer infectious, and you can return to normal activities.

What if I start to feel unwell?

If you are experiencing severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath, call 000 and request an ambulance.

If you are feeling unwell but don't require an ambulance, seek medical advice through your local doctor.

What will happen to my health information and test results?

The information you provide and your test result will be stored securely by the department. The information will be used and disclosed for public health management and research purposes, to manage positive or borderline positive results and any associated enforcement action that may be necessary, where this is reasonably necessary to prevent a threat to public health and safety and to inform the response to coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria.

Where can I find out more information?

Call the coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline on **1800 675 398** to discuss any questions you have. If you need a translator first call 131 450, then request the hotline on **1800 675 398**.

For Victorian updates about COVID-19, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1300 651 160, using the National Relay Service 131 450 if required, or email [Public Health branch](mailto:public.health@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <public.health@dhhs.vic.gov.au>.

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