



COVID-19 Testing

What do I need to do before I get tested?



Referral from a GP

You will most likely need a referral from a GP before being tested. Book a telehealth appointment with a GP to obtain a referral.

BOOK NOW

Book an appointment

Depending on where you get tested, you may need to make an appointment, so best to call before you go. Most mobile or drive-through testing clinics don't require an appointment.



Medicare

Bring your Medicare card

You will need to bring your Medicare card with you and if you don't have a Medicare card, bring at least one form of identification, such as your driver's license or student ID.

Follow instructions

After your test, you should follow the instructions of your doctor or healthcare professional at the testing clinic. In most cases, you will be instructed to go straight home and wait for your results. Don't go out in public, including going to work or school. Practice good hand and cough hygiene, and avoid close contact with other people, including members of your own household.



How is COVID-19 diagnosed?

Your doctor (GP), or staff at a testing clinic or hospital emergency department may take swabs from the back of your nose and throat to diagnose your illness. Swabs and fluid are sent to a lab to test for COVID-19.



How long will my results take?

Your doctor or the staff at the testing clinic where you were tested should tell you how long it will take to get your results, but it can be anywhere between **1 to 5 days**. If you have any questions about your results, contact the clinic, GP practice or hospital where the test was carried out.



What will happen if my COVID-19 test is...

Negative?



If your test results are *negative*, you should receive an SMS text message or a phone call from the doctor or clinic that took your test.

Positive?



If your test results are *positive*, you should receive a phone call from a doctor to let you know what you should do next. You might also receive a phone call from a public health unit about **contact tracing**.



If your symptoms are serious, you will likely be required to stay in hospital – isolated from other patients to prevent further spread of the virus.



If you're well enough to stay at home, you **must** remain isolated in your home or accommodation until public health officers tell you it's safe to return to normal activities. This will usually be after at least 10 days from when you first started showing symptoms, and 72 hours (or 3 days) after your symptoms are gone.

If your condition gets worse, seek medical attention:



Notify public health officers by calling the number provided to you. Follow their instructions: they may tell you to go to a doctor's clinic or a hospital.



Call ahead before visiting the doctor or hospital and tell staff you have a confirmed case of COVID-19.



Wear a surgical mask if you need to leave the house.



When you arrive at the doctor's surgery or hospital, tell staff that you have a confirmed case of COVID-19.

If you are experiencing severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:



Call triple zero (000) and ask for an ambulance.



Tell the paramedics on arrival that you have a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.



Where can I find a COVID-19 testing clinic?

- ACT covid19.act.gov.au
- QLD covid19.qld.gov.au
- NT coronavirus.nt.gov.au
- NSW nsw.gov.au/covid-19
- SA covid-19.sa.gov.au
- TAS coronavirus.tas.gov.au
- VIC dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Reference: Healthdirect Australia - www.healthdirect.gov.au