

|  |
| --- |
| Coronavirus (COVID-19) |
| Testing Requirements Policy28 July 2022Version 6.0 |
| OFFICIAL |

# 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**  | **Close contact self-quarantining for 7 days** (with symptoms)A close contact with COVID-19 symptoms must undertake a COVID-19 **rapid antigen (RA) test** 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). If the result is **negative**, the close contact must undertake a RA test on the sixth day of the seven-day self-quarantine period.It is recommended that a close contact undertake a RA teston three other days between the first and sixth day of self-quarantine (at least 24 hours apart).If the close contact is unable to access a RA test, they must undertake a COVID-19 PCR test instead.Symptomatic close contacts can proceed to a PCR if requested. *Note: this should be in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure\*\*****.***Close contact self-quarantining for 7 days** (without symptoms)A close contact without COVID-19 symptoms must undertake a RA test on the first and sixth day from when they are required to self-quarantine. Should the RA testreturn 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)It is recommended that a **close contact** undertakea RA teston three other days between the first and sixth day of self-quarantine.If the close contact is unable to access a RA test, they must undertake a COVID-19 PCR testinstead.*Note: this should be in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure\*\*****.***Close contact undertaking daily surveillance testing instead of self-quarantine**A close contact who is electing to undertake surveillance testing instead of self-quarantine, **must undertake five COVID-19 rapid antigen tests**, 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.A close contact can request a PCR test and must self-quarantine while they are awaiting results of a PCR test. If a close contact **develops symptoms** at any time during their household contact period, they are recommended to undertake a RA test as soon as possible and **isolate until symptoms resolve**. Symptomatic close contacts can proceed to a PCR if requested. Note: A close contact opting to undertake surveillance testing in lieu of self-quarantine must follow all other requirements such as:* wear a mask indoors when outside of their home
* do not visit hospitals or care facilities
* notify their employer or education facility.

*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.**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.**Note: this should be in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure\*\*****.* |
| **Social contact****(Includes contacts in workplaces and social settings)** | A **social contact** must undertake a RA test or a PCR test (if there are no RA tests available)if experiencingCOVID-19 **symptoms** and self-quarantine until they are notified of a negative result, or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.Should the RA test return a positive result, a social contact mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the resultas soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**).*Note: this should be in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure\*\*****.* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Classification** | **Recommended Testing** |
| **International arrival****(Includes aircrew, maritime crew, and passengers)** | An **international arrival** is recommended to undertake a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival in Victoria. *Note: An asymptomatic international arrival undertaking a test, should undertake a RA test not a COVID-19 PCR test.*An international arrival should undertake a RA test **if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms** and can request a PCR if a RA test is unavailable*Note: this should be in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure\*\*****.* |
| **Social contact (includes contacts in workplaces and social settings)** | A social contact without COVID-19 symptoms is strongly recommended to undertake daily RA testing for five days following notification that they are a social contact.Should the RA testreturn a **positive result,** a social contact mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**).*Note: this is in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure****.\*\** |
| **Symptomatic person in the community or a workplace (not a close contact or social contact)** | A person in the community or a workplace (who is not a close contact or social contact) who is experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms** 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.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.*Note: this should be in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure\*\*****.* |
| **Asymptomatic person in the community (not a close contact or social contact)** | An asymptomatic person is a person in the community (who is not a close contact or social contact) and is **not** experiencing COVID-19 symptoms**.**Should a RA testreturn a positive result**,** an asymptomatic person in the community mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**).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.*Note: this should be in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure\*\*****.* |

\* 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.