



# Voluntary asymptomatic COVID-19 testing for workers in Health Care Facilities

The WA Department of Health invites Health Care Workers (HCWs) involved in the care of admitted hospital patients with confirmed COVID-19 to undergo regular, voluntary asymptomatic testing for the virus. Participation in the testing program is voluntary and strongly encouraged for eligible HCWs.

## Eligible workers

- Staff members working in a hospital who are involved in the care of an admitted patient with confirmed COVID-19
- This includes clinical and non-clinical staff (i.e. ward clerks, contractors, other staff) who have been in the patient zone (including transfer areas e.g. emergency department, other areas) from the admission until the patient is cleared of infection.

## Testing regimen

- COVID-19 PCR testing by nose and throat swab on day 5 and 12 after first contact, and then every 7 days.
- Testing should continue until 14 days have passed since the worker either:
  - Worked in or entered a COVID-19 ward or worked in an ICU where a confirmed COVID-19 patient is receiving care; or
  - Provided care including occasional or intermittent care (including transport workers) to a confirmed COVID-19 patient.
- If the worker is away from work following the contact, the worker should use every endeavour to be tested every 7 days, whilst away, until 14 days have passed from last contact.

## Testing locations

Testing will be available at COVID clinics, regional emergency departments and the emergency department of a public hospital that is located outside the Perth metropolitan area. COVID clinic locations can be found at <https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus> or by calling 13 COVID (13 26843).

Testing is free. When you present for testing you will be asked to provide identification such as a staff identification card from your place of employment to prove your eligibility. You will be required to confirm that you are asymptomatic (do not have any symptoms) of COVID-19.

## Isolation after testing

There is no need to isolate after testing if you are free of COVID-19 symptoms and you have not been directed to quarantine for another reason. You can continue going to work and doing your usual activities, in keeping with the current advice in Western Australia. If you develop symptoms of

COVID-19 between testing and when your result is available, you should isolate whilst awaiting the result and seek medical advice if needed.

## Test results

You will be advised of a negative test via SMS within 3 business days of your test and can continue life as normal and re-present for testing as often as weekly. You will need to be tested for COVID-19 sooner if you develop symptoms, regardless of how soon after the negative test that might occur.

If your test is positive, a member of the Department of Health's Public Health team will contact you to advise you what actions to take.

## Response to an infection control breach

If you are involved in a breach of infection control practices at your workplace (e.g. inadequate personal protective equipment) you should report this immediately to your line manager. Public Health advice can then be sought to decide if any extra COVID-19 testing is required.

## Response to symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) without a known source, history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), or respiratory symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, or acute loss of smell and taste. If you have any of these symptoms you **do not** qualify for the asymptomatic HCW testing program, but you should be tested for COVID-19 at a COVID-19 clinic and isolate until you receive a negative result.

## Further information

Visit [healthywa.wa.gov.au](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au)

Call 13 COVID (13 26843)

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