



Special testing system bulletin

9 February 2021

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COVID-19 hotline 1800 675 398

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Health
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Services

Updated 9 February 2021

Hotel Quarantine Worker Testing

- On February 7 2021, a Hotel Quarantine worker at the Holiday Inn at Melbourne Airport has tested positive to coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual was tested on 4 Feb, returning a negative result. They returned to work on 7 February, developed symptoms, were tested and returned a positive result.
- Hotel Quarantine Worker Testing Program (HQWTP) provides safe and accessible coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for staff working within quarantine hotels or associated facilities (airport, transport).
- Onsite testing is available for all staff which is located at the hotel or place of work to support a surveillance testing regime. As endorsed by the Chief Health Officer (CHO) staff are **required** to be tested on each day they attend work.

In addition, hotel workers now can undertake an optional SARS-CoV-2 Oral/Nasal PCR Test any non-working day.

- All staff working within the COVID-19 Quarantine Victoria (CQV) program are eligible to be tested asymptotically at any Department of Health fixed testing site (Community Health, Retail, Health Service Led facility).

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Hotel Quarantine Worker Testing

Type of test

- SARS-CoV-2 Oral/Nasal PCR Test

Prioritisation of tests

- Priority 1 – Urgent

Isolation advice

- Hotel workers tested asymptotically (without symptoms) are not required to isolate after the test **UNLESS** the individual is advised they are a close contact of a confirmed case OR has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.
- If an individual is a confirmed close contact the Department of Health (DH) will advise them of their isolation period. If the individual has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, they must return home immediately and stay at home until they receive a negative test result. Their symptoms must resolve prior to attending their place of work and they should refer to their line manager prior to their return.

Results and notification

- Negative test results are provided to clients via text message provided by the designated pathology provider of the testing site. Positive results will be managed by the referring clinician.
- If their result is positive, they will receive a phone call from the referring clinician regarding their result and self-isolation advice. The DH Public Health team and CQV will be notified, and clients will be subject to further contact tracing procedures.