

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

## Patient Testing Criteria

### Current Victorian coronavirus disease (COVID-19) case definition and testing criteria

*People without symptoms should not be tested.*

**Patients who meet the following clinical criteria should be tested:**

Fever **OR** chills in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that explains the clinical presentation.

**OR**

Acute respiratory infection that is characterised by cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.

**Note:** In addition, testing is recommended for people with new onset of other clinical symptoms consistent with COVID-19\* AND who are close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 or who have returned from overseas in the past 14 days.

\*headache, myalgia, runny or stuffy nose, anosmia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea

**Note:** Healthcare workers and emergency workers remain a high priority for testing.

All patients being tested for COVID-19 should home isolate until test results are available. All patients should attend an emergency department if clinical deterioration occurs.

Notify the department of confirmed cases as soon as practicable by calling **1300 651 160**, 24 hours a day. A confirmed case is a person who tests positive to a validated SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test or has the virus identified by electron microscopy or viral culture.

Source: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-services-and-general-practitioners-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>