

COVID-19 Public Health Alert No. 15 / 24 July 2020

Testing for COVID-19

As restrictions ease across Queensland, we need more people to get tested for COVID-19. This will help us find any cases in the community as quickly as possible.

Who should be tested?

- Anyone with any of the following COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild:
 - fever or history of fever
 - sore throat, rhinorrhoea
 - cough, shortness of breath
 - acute fatigue/myalgia/arthralgia
 - loss of smell, loss of taste
- Anyone who presents to a fever clinic/pop-up clinic requesting a test, where feasible, as this contributes to our current surveillance strategy
- People in quarantine, in accordance with current quarantine protocols

Actively encourage testing in the following groups:

- Residents in aged care, who may present with atypical symptoms including confusion and behavioural changes
- Occupations that have contact with high-risk individuals, e.g. healthcare workers and aged care or residential care workers
- Essential workers whose job involves a lot of travel (particularly interstate), e.g. people who work in the freight/transport/travel industry
- Workers in industries that have been linked with outbreaks elsewhere, e.g. abattoirs, large function venues
- People of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin

What questions should people being tested be asked?

- Have they had close contact with a confirmed or suspect case?
- Have they travelled internationally, interstate or through a hotspot (see link below)?
- Have they been in quarantine for any reason?

These questions will identify people who are at higher risk for infection.

The following people should be advised to isolate themselves pending the test result:

- Anyone who has been identified as being at higher risk for infection (see questions above)
- People who work in high-risk settings (e.g. healthcare, residential care and aged care)

If any area in Queensland is declared a COVID-19 hotspot, all people in that area having a test for COVID-19 should isolate themselves pending the test results.

The list of hotspots is available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/hotspots-covid-19>

People who are suspected of having any other infectious condition (e.g. other respiratory viruses) should isolate themselves until their symptoms are resolved or as otherwise clinically indicated.

Public Health Incident Controller, Communicable Diseases Branch Incident Management Team