



COVID-19 clinics

Frequently asked questions

I have just had my COVID-19 test. What happens now?

You must self-isolate after testing.

If you are tested for COVID-19, you must isolate until you receive your test result, or you are told you do not have to isolate.

What does self-isolation mean?

- If you are not already in your home or accommodation, you **must** immediately go to your home or accommodation in the manner directed or instructed or otherwise by the most direct route available and without stopping except as required by law or necessary for fuel.
- You **must not** leave your home or accommodation except to escape an immediate threat, to get urgent medical treatment at a hospital or to comply with a direction given by a relevant officer. If you require urgent medical attention, call 000 and let the ambulance or hospital know that you have been tested for COVID-19 and are in isolation. If you leave to escape an immediate threat, you must inform WA police on 131 444 as soon as possible.
- You **must not** have any visitors unless the person is a usual member of your household, is attending your home or accommodation for medical or emergency purposes or to perform critical maintenance or is a relevant officer.

If your test result is positive, then you must continue to isolate. You will be contacted by the WA Department of Health Public Health Unit with further information on this.

Who can be tested?

WA Health recommends anyone with the following symptoms get tested:

- a fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) OR a recent history of a fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) without a known source OR
- an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) OR
- acute (sudden or unexplained) loss of smell or taste.

It is important if you have respiratory illness symptoms to stay at home until you are well.

Should I be tested if I don't have symptoms (if I am "asymptomatic")?

Testing of asymptomatic people is only permitted under certain circumstances, which have been approved by the Chief Health Officer. Asymptomatic testing should not be carried out for work purposes or "fit for work purposes", unless requested or approved by Public Health. The scenarios where asymptomatic testing is currently permitted can be found at www.wa.gov.au.

Why won't I get tested if I don't have symptoms?

Unless you fall in to one of the approved categories that permits testing of people without symptoms, you cannot be tested. The reason for this is, in the early stages of infection (before people have symptoms), it may not be possible to detect the virus. Testing when you do not have symptoms could give a false negative result.

I live with other people; how do I isolate following a COVID-19 test?

- Stay in your own room if possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if you can.
- Stay at least 1.5 metres away from others. Minimise close contact with others in your house.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow. Place used tissues in the bin.
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol rub for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Clean your house/accommodation frequently with a disinfectant based cleaning product, especially things that people touch often e.g. phone, light switches, the TV remote control, door handles and communal areas.

Can my housemates/family/children live with me? Can they go shopping, to work or to school?

If they normally live there, they can still live with you. They can continue their daily activities as normal unless directed otherwise.

Can I have visitors?

The only visitors you can have are:

- people entering for medical or emergency purposes;
- people entering to perform critical maintenance;
- relevant officers, as defined in the *Directions*.

Can I go outside?

You can only go outside if:

- you have a garden, courtyard or balcony attached to your house or accommodation that is not shared with other households;
- you need to seek urgent medical treatment for yourself or someone who you live with; or
- you need to escape a threat to your safety or the safety of someone who you live with. If this happens make sure you let WA Police know on 131 444.

You must not go to the shops, walk the dog or undertake exercise in a public or communal place.

Can I go to work?

You cannot leave your home or accommodation to go to work.

When does my isolation end?

- If you are isolating following testing for COVID-19:
 - you will receive your result via SMS within 72 hours if you were tested at a public COVID clinic. If you have not received your results within 72 hours, please contact the Results Hotline 1800 313 223 between 8am to 4pm Monday to Sunday; or
 - your requesting doctor is responsible for providing you with your result if you were not tested at a public COVID clinic.

- If your result is negative but you still feel unwell, you should remain at your home or accommodation until your symptoms have resolved.
- You may need to continue to quarantine at your home or accommodation if you have been instructed or directed to do so, even if a test result is negative.
- If your result is positive for COVID-19, you will be contacted by a member of the Public Health team.

What to do if you become unwell while you are in isolation

- If you require urgent, immediate medical help at a hospital (e.g. difficulty breathing), you are permitted to leave your home. Call 000 and let them know you are isolating due to COVID19:
 - it is recommended that you call WAPOL on 131 444 to inform them that you are in isolation and need to leave to attend hospital.
- If you are not travelling by ambulance to hospital it is recommended that you:
 - call WAPOL on 131 444 to inform them that you are in isolation and are required to leave to attend hospital;
 - call the hospital before you arrive to inform them you are in isolation and inform hospital staff immediately on arrival;
 - maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from others, practise good hand hygiene and cough etiquette;
 - you may travel by private vehicle, taxi, or rideshare service but must not use public transport such as a bus or train; and
 - wear a face mask from the time you leave the place where you are in isolation, until you return to that place.

Do I need to isolate after my COVID-19 test if I have been vaccinated?

Yes, you still need to isolate. You must comply with Directions under the Emergency Management Act 2005, regardless of whether you have been vaccinated or not.

Implications for people who do not comply with the requirement to self-quarantine

The WA government takes the health and wellbeing of the community very seriously. Directions under the Emergency Management Act 2005 have been issued which must be followed. A person who does not comply with the directions is subject to a fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for bodies corporate.

More information

- 13 COVID (132 6843) is open 7 days a week, 8am to 6pm
- www.health.wa.gov.au/coronavirus
- www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus
- www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus
- If you need help with translating the information on these sites, contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (external site) or phone 131 450.

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This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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