



# Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing options for Port of Portland workers

28 January 2021

Control measures, including regular coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, have been introduced to the maritime industry to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

In accordance with the [Workplace \(Additional Industry Obligations\) Directions \(No.17\)](#), the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) requires certain maritime industry employers and workers to implement and participate in coronavirus (COVID-19) control measures.

As at 14 January 2021, the [Surveillance testing industry list and requirements](#) outline that certain maritime industry workers must undergo coronavirus (COVID-19) workplace testing.

## Who is in scope for weekly coronavirus (COVID-19) testing?

Employees must participate even if they do not have symptoms.

- Employees must be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) if they have had direct, occasional or indirect contact or interactions with:
  - passengers or crew on vessels from outside Australia

**AND/OR**

  - the environment which these passengers or crew pass through.
- This includes:
  - interacting with maritime crew at the port of entry
  - occupying the same enclosed space with maritime crew, or where maritime crew have been
  - transferring or transporting maritime crew
  - interaction with the crew for regulatory or welfare purposes
  - cleaning and waste removal on an international arriving vessel.

If your employees' work results in them being in any of the above situations, they must undergo **weekly testing**.

## Testing options

There are three options available to you to meet the weekly testing requirements.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<b>Criteria</b>	<p><b>Existing relationship with a private pathology provider.</b></p> <p>If your business has an existing arrangement with a private pathology provider to undertake regular coronavirus (COVID-19) testing of your workforce they can continue with these arrangements.</p>	<p><b>No existing relationship with a private pathology provider.</b></p> <p>The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will allocate a testing provider to deliver on site testing, with specimen collection arrangements negotiated directly between your business and testing provider.</p>	<p><b>Workers can attend a fixed testing to get tested.</b></p> <p>The closest fixed testing sites to the Port of Portland are detailed in the next section of this fact sheet.</p>
<b>Cost</b>	The business will pay for specimen collection and DHHS will pay for pathology (subject to DHHS agreed terms).	Free: DHHS will pay costs of specimen collection and pathology.	Free: DHHS will pay costs of specimen collection and pathology.
<b>Arrangements</b>	Direct arrangement between the business and the private pathology provider continues.	See Appendix A.	As with public testing the worker will attend a fixed public testing site.
<b>Records – record keeping is the responsibility of the employer and may be inspected</b>	<p>Business provides a total list of workers to the pathology provider and the pathology provider organises consent from workers for testing and sharing test results with employer. Pathology provider returns list of workers tested each week to employer.</p> <p>Employers are responsible for informing their workers that testing arrangements have been made.</p> <p>Employers must notify DHHS of the total number of workers on site and the number of workers tested in the past week, by filling out the <a href="#">Weekly Reporting: Maritime Workers Asymptomatic Testing</a> online form by 5pm each Monday.</p>	<p>Business provides a list of all workers to testing provider and testing provider organises consent for workers for testing and sharing test results with employer. Testing provider returns list of workers tested to employer each week.</p> <p>Employers are responsible for informing their workers that testing arrangements have been made.</p> <p>Employers must notify DHHS of the total number of workers on site and the number of workers tested in the past week, by filling out the <a href="#">Weekly Reporting: Maritime Workers Asymptomatic Testing</a></p>	<p>Worker receives SMS of test result from pathology provider.</p> <p>Employer must ensure that the worker forwards this SMS to a designated business representative and that the test is recorded against that worker.</p> <p>Employers must notify DHHS of the total number of workers on site and the number of workers tested each week, by filling out the <a href="#">Weekly Reporting: Maritime Workers Asymptomatic Testing</a> online form by 5pm each Monday.</p>

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## Off-site (fixed) testing sites

Employees can undergo testing at an off-site (fixed) testing site. They must inform the testing site that they are a maritime worker. The test is free for everyone. This includes people without a Medicare card, such as visitors from overseas, migrant workers and asylum seekers.

The closest fixed testing site to the Port of Portland is:

<p><b>Portland District Health</b>  Walk-in  Address: Bentinck Street, Portland VIC 3305  Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-4pm  Appointment required – call on 5521 0387</p>
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To find other nearby off-site fixed testing sites, visit [where to get tested](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19) <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19>.

## After testing

Unless they have or develop symptoms (fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose and loss or change in sense of smell or taste), employees do not have to isolate and may continue working while waiting for their test result.

## Appendix A

- DHHS will allocate a testing provider to provide on-site testing. Allocations will be determined to manage demand across laboratories and minimise testing turnaround times.
- Specimen collection arrangements will be negotiated directly between the employer and the testing provider.
- Multiple visits in any one week may be possible subject to the volume of tests to be completed at each visit, as negotiated with the testing provider.
- The testing provider will undertake site assessment of the suitability for on-site testing. On-site testing is subject to a mutually agreed suitable location for specimen collections.
- If employees are being tested via Option one or two, a medical practitioner will need to agree to take responsibility for communication and follow-up of any positive results. The employer may already have a relationship with a medical practitioner for this purpose, or a medical practitioner will need to be identified. The private pathology provider will facilitate this arrangement if required.
- The testing provider will invoice DHHS directly. DHHS will not reimburse costs paid by the employer.

To find out more information about coronavirus and how to stay safe visit [DHHS.vic – coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

[<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

If you need an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450

For information in other languages, scan the QR code or visit

[DHHS.vic –Translated resources - coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19)

[<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19)



For any questions

**Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)**

To receive this document in another format phone 1300 651 160 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email the Department of Health and Human Services](mailto:COVID-19@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <COVID-19@dhhs.vic.gov.au>.

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