

# COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment Guidelines

## COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment Summary

The Victorian Government is providing a \$450 payment designed to financially support Victorian workers, including guardians or carers, who are required to self-isolate after a coronavirus (COVID-19) test and stay in isolation while waiting for their test results.

This payment will help to ensure that workers are able to isolate immediately and avoid potential transmission of the virus through workplaces.

These guidelines set out the eligibility criteria to access the COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment. Please ensure that you read this document carefully before completing the application form.

### 1 Standard Eligibility Criteria

1.1 You are eligible for the Payment if you:

- are 17 years and over; and
- have been tested for coronavirus (COVID-19)<sup>1</sup> or are the guardian or carer of someone who has been tested for coronavirus COVID-19; and
- currently reside in Victoria; and
- are likely to have worked or undertaken paid work<sup>2</sup> during the relevant period of self-isolation and are unable to work as a result of:
  - the requirement to self-isolate and stay in isolation following the test for coronavirus COVID-19; or
  - to care for someone who is required to self-isolate and stay in isolation following a test for coronavirus COVID-19; and
- will not be receiving or have not received any income, earnings or salary maintenance from work as a result of not being able to work during the period of self-isolation at home; and
- have insufficient sick and/or carers leave entitlements including any special pandemic leave or have no entitlement to such leave<sup>3</sup>; and
- are not receiving Australian Government income support such as the Jobseeker payment or be an employee subject to the JobKeeper payment during the period of self-isolation.

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<sup>1</sup> The test must have been conducted on or after 23 July 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Workers include those that are permanent, casual, part-time, fixed term, and self-employed

<sup>3</sup> Self-employed and those employed on a casual basis.

## 2 Other application information

- 2.1 As part of the assessment process, the evidence that you provide may be subject to a crosscheck with other government departments and agencies including but not limited to the Department of Health and Human Services.
- 2.2 You are required to submit your application online via the COVID-19 Worker Support Payment website (<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid-19-worker-support-payment>).
- 2.3 All questions in the application need to be completed to ensure timely assessment and grant payment.

## 3 Available payment

- 3.1 The payment amount to an eligible applicant is \$450 per test. A person can only receive one payment within a 30-day period, unless the eligible applicant has been directed to have more than one test within that period by the Department of Health and Human Services.

## 4 Evidence of eligibility and compliance

- 4.1 To receive a payment, you must agree to follow self-isolation guidelines provided by the Department of Health and Human Services while waiting for your coronavirus (COVID-19) test results.
- 4.2 If you do not self-isolate while waiting for your coronavirus (COVID-19) test results, you will be required to repay the \$450 payment.
- 4.3 To receive a payment you must certify, and if requested to do so provide evidence, that you meet all of the eligibility criteria.
- 4.4 You must provide:
  - proof of identity (e.g. Victorian Driver's License, Victorian Seniors Card, Victorian Proof of Age Card, Passport, Visa Entitlement Verification Online documentation); and
  - evidence that you are employed (e.g. Payslip, Letter of Employment or Letter of Offer) or self-employed (e.g. provision of a valid Australian Business Number).
- 4.5 If any information in the application is found to be false or misleading in accordance with the terms of funding as set out in these guidelines and attached application, the payment will be repayable on demand.
- 4.6 Only individual applicants may apply. Applications through a third party will not be accepted.
- 4.7 Applicants must give consent<sup>4</sup>, or where applicable obtain the consent of the person the applicant cares for, for the Department to undertake data validation with, collect

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<sup>4</sup> For instance, consent would be required in cases where an applicant is a carer for someone who is required to self-isolate and stay in isolation following a test for COVID-19.

and disclose information including personal and where applicable health information to, relevant Commonwealth and State Government agencies and departments including but not limited to the Department of Health and Human Services, Centrelink and health care providers, for the purpose of verifying the particulars of the applicant's application.

- 4.8 Applicants may be subject to audit by the Victorian Government or its representatives and may be required to produce further evidence if asked, including but not limited to, demonstrating that they are:
- a) currently living in Victoria;
  - b) are employed or would have undertaken paid work if not required to self-isolate or care for someone who is required to isolate; and
  - c) in isolation, or caring for someone in isolation, at their nominated residence.

## **5 Other information about this payment**

- 5.1 The Department reserves the right to withdraw or amend the payment or these guidelines and application terms at any time as it deems appropriate without notice.
- 5.2 Further information may be found at the COVID-19 Workers Support Payment website at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid-19-worker-support-payment> or 1800 675 398.