

# COVID-19 – Information for someone who is being tested for COVID-19 (suspected case)

**You have been identified as being at risk of infection with COVID-19 and you have now developed symptoms.**

**Please read the following information carefully.**

## What is Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can affect humans and animals. In humans, coronaviruses can cause mild illness, such as the common cold and gastrointestinal infections, as well as more severe illness, such as that caused by SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome).

There is an outbreak of a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus that is called 'COVID-19'. The outbreak started in a province of China and has spread to a number of countries outside China.

## What happens now?

Your doctor will arrange for you to be tested for the infection. It usually takes about 24-48 hours for the test results to be returned, but in some cases may take longer.

If your symptoms are serious you may need to be hospitalised and isolated from other patients to prevent further spread of the virus.

If your doctor says you are well enough to return home while you are waiting for your test results, you must isolate yourself at home until your test result is available.

- Remain in your home and do not attend work, school, or any public places (such as shops or cafes/restaurants);
- Practice good hygiene: wash your hands often with soap and water and cough and sneeze into your elbow;
- Avoid caring for other members of your household; and
- Wear a mask if close contact with other people in your home is unavoidable.

Your family and other close contacts may need to be isolated, even if they don't have symptoms. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## What happens if my test is negative?

If you were required to be in home quarantine before you were tested because you have recently returned from mainland China, Iran or South Korea, or you are a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case, you must remain in isolation until 14 days after you left the high-risk country or had contact with the confirmed case. You should continue to carefully monitor your health. Report any new or returning/worsening symptoms to CDC on (02) 5124 9213 during business hours, or by paging (02) 9962 4155 after hours. You may need to be tested again.

If you were not required to be in home quarantine before you were tested, you no longer need to remain in isolation. You may return to normal activities on your doctor's advice.

## What happens if my test is positive?

CDC will contact you to provide advice and to identify people you may have had contact with while infectious. CDC will call your contacts and provide advice regarding isolation and what they will need to do if they develop symptoms.

If CDC and your treating medical team determine that you can safely be managed at home, you must remain in your home or accommodation until CDC advises that it is safe to return to normal activities. If your condition deteriorates:

- Notify the CDC on (02) 5124 9213 during business hours, or by calling (02) 9962 4155 after hours.
- Follow the direction of CDC staff who may advise you to go to a GP or a hospital.
- Call ahead to the GP or hospital and inform them that you are a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Wear a face mask when travelling to the GP or hospital.
- When you arrive at the GP practice or hospital, tell them that you are a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- If you are experiencing severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:
  - Call 000 and request an ambulance; and
  - Inform the ambulance officers that you are a confirmed case of COVID-19.

## Where can I get more information?

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/information-about-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus>

## Accessibility

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If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

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