

Testing requirements for Transport employees

What you need to know and do

There are a number of circumstances where our people may need to be tested for COVID-19. The types of testing, information on each and how they apply to us at Transport can be found on this fact sheet.

Testing when symptomatic

NSW Health urges people with even the mildest of cold-like symptoms to come forward and be tested for COVID-19. This means if you have a cough, a sore or scratchy throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste, loss of smell or a fever (37.5° or higher) you should stay away from work and get tested at your nearest testing clinic.

A list of testing clinics can be found [here](#).

When getting tested, request your results by SMS and if you are in a frontline role, identify yourself as a frontline Transport employee to help speed things up.

Do I have to self-isolate?

Yes, you should self-isolate immediately after getting your test and remain in self-isolation until you have received a negative COVID-19 test result and you are feeling well again.

When can I return to work?

Once you have received a negative COVID-19 test result, you are feeling well again and in consultation with your doctor, you can return to work.

Testing when you are a close, secondary close or casual contact

If you are identified as a close, secondary close or casual contact, or you have visited a [confirmed COVID-19 case location](#) you will need to get tested immediately at your nearest testing clinic.

A list of testing clinics can be found [here](#).

Do I have to self-isolate?

Yes, you should self-isolate immediately after getting your test and remain in self-isolation for the specified time-frame from NSW Health or a TfNSW contact tracer, which will depend on what type of contact you are identified as.

Casual Contact – Self-isolate until you receive a negative result (or as per instruction from NSW Health or a TfNSW contact tracer).

Secondary Close Contact – Self-isolate until you and the close contact both receive negative results AND you have maintained isolation from the close contact since testing (or as per instruction from NSW Health or a TfNSW contact tracer).

Close Contact – Self-isolate for 14 days from exposure (or as per instruction from NSW Health or a TfNSW contact tracer).



You can view [flowcharts for each type of contact here](#) but you should always follow instruction from NSW Health or a TfNSW contact tracer as the status of some contact venues may change and therefore your contact type and self-isolation requirement might change.

When can I return to work?

Once you have received a negative COVID-19 test result, you have been advised by NSW Health or a TfNSW contact tracer that you no longer need to self-isolate and you do not have any symptoms.

Mandatory surveillance testing

Surveillance testing applies to Authorised Workers in certain Local Government Areas (LGAs) who have to leave their LGA to perform authorised work. It is your responsibility to understand the testing requirements and ensure you are adhering to them. Up-to-date information regarding the requirements can be found on the [NSW government website](#).

You may like to use a testing site near your home or on your way to or from work and can [find locations here](#).

Who is required to have mandatory surveillance testing?

- Authorised Workers who live or stay in the [Canterbury-Bankstown LGA](#) are required to get tested once every three days in order to leave their LGA for work.
- Workers who live or stay in Greater Sydney including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour and work [more than 50km from the Greater Sydney area](#) are required to get tested once every seven days.
- Construction workers who live or stay in an [LGA of concern](#) and who have not had at least one dose of vaccine at least 3 weeks ago are required to get tested once every three days in order to work on a construction site.

Do I need to self-isolate after mandatory surveillance testing?

In this situation, where workers are well, they are not required to self-isolate and wait for the test result. The idea is to identify the presence of COVID-19 early even if the worker is not showing symptoms. This means if you are well and get tested under surveillance testing requirements you do not need to self-isolate until you receive the result.

Important information for our people who are subject to mandatory surveillance testing;

- You are required to [complete our online COVID-19 Testing Declaration Form](#) to declare that you have met your COVID-19 testing obligations prior to the beginning of each shift.
- You may not be asked to show evidence of a test each shift but you will need to complete the declaration to confirm that you've met your testing requirement each shift.
- An SMS text message or email from the testing organisation can be used as evidence that a test has been taken and you will need to have access to this at all times in case we need to sight it.

Saliva Testing

As per advice given to us from NSW Health, saliva testing is an important part of keeping you and others safe and is a valuable screening test for asymptomatic staff (those without symptoms). As testing allows us to better protect our employees and their families, we have made it mandatory for anyone entering certain Transport locations to undertake daily saliva testing.



Which locations have saliva testing?

- Rail Operations Centre (ROC)
- Homebush Control Centre
- Sydenham Control Centre
- Belmore Disaster Recovery Site

Who needs to take a saliva test?

Anyone who enters the locations listed above will need to take a saliva test, including employees, contractors, and cleaners.

Does daily saliva testing replace the need for surveillance testing for those who live in a restricted LGA?

No. Saliva testing is separate to the surveillance testing requirements set out in the Public Health Order for those who live in restricted LGAs. If you live in a restricted LGA and need to travel outside your LGA for work, please continue to follow health advice for your LGA as well as take saliva tests at our worksites where it is set up.

If I am experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, can I get a saliva test instead of a nose and throat swab test?

No. The nose and throat PCR swab test is the most accurate diagnostic test for anyone with symptoms. The saliva test is only used as a screening test in asymptomatic people (those without symptoms). **Please note: If you are feeling unwell, do not come to work.** You must get a standard nose and throat swab test at any COVID-19 testing clinic.

Where can I find out more information on saliva testing?

You can view the [Daily saliva testing FAQs](#) for more details.

