






COVID-19 testing options: what are the differences?



This factsheet explains the various services that offer COVID-19 testing. Your GP may also offer testing at their practice – please speak to your GP receptionist before you visit.

	Respiratory Clinics (funded by Aust Govt) Free, seen by a GP 	NSW Health COVID-19 Clinics Free, test only 	Drive-through pathology collection Test only, needs GP referral Cost covered by Medicare 	COVID-19 pathology collection centres Test only, needs GP referral Cost covered by Medicare 	DIY self-collection test kit at your home – test only Cost covered by Medicare 
What to expect	Can test for COVID-19, plus other respiratory illnesses like flu and pneumonia. Will assess people with mild to moderate respiratory symptoms including a fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and/or tiredness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend time with a GP or nurse. Receive advice about managing respiratory symptoms. The clinic will advise you of your results and can send a copy to your GP. 	Unlike GP respiratory clinics, these only test for COVID-19, not other respiratory illnesses. You can be tested here if you have a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath and meet the current testing criteria . Walk-ins accepted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get tested by a nurse. Receive test results via SMS. You will be contacted as a priority if you test positive. You will need to contact your GP for advice on managing your respiratory symptoms. 	Your doctor can refer you to a drive-through pathology collection service if you are a low-risk patient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain in your vehicle while throat and nasal swabs are taken by a pathology collector. Results will be sent to your referring doctor who can provide advice on managing your respiratory symptoms. 	Your doctor can refer you to a dedicated COVID-19 pathology centre if you are a low-risk patient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have throat and nasal swabs taken by a pathology collector. Results will be sent to your referring doctor who can provide advice on managing your respiratory symptoms. 	If you can't leave home, ask your GP about self-collection home testing. You cannot self-collect if you are unable to take a good-quality sample or need a clearance test for employment or medicolegal reasons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a test kit delivered to your home where you will self-collect throat and nasal swabs before a courier collects and returns them to a pathology lab. Results will be sent to your referring doctor.
Accepts low-risk people (mildly unwell)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accepts people with mild-moderate symptoms	✓	✓			✓
Appointment required	✓		✓	✓	
Referral/pathology request form required from your GP			✓	✓	✓
Advice available on managing your symptoms	✓				
Locations, bookings (if applicable) and other details	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here

IMPORTANT: After your COVID-19 test, you must self-isolate until you receive an 'all ok' (known as a negative) result. When you get tested you will receive more information about self-isolating.