

COVID-19 testing for residential aged care

- Testing of suspect COVID-19 cases in aged care facilities can be carried out by appropriately trained GPs or nursing staff.
- Testing should only occur if indicated as per current SoNG e.g. if two or more cases clinically compatible with COVID-19 in a residential care setting.
- If you require testing in an aged care setting, please call the Public Health hotline on 1800 671 738 and press 3 to access the dedicated healthcare professional line.
- If Public Health recommends testing for COVID-19, you will be given directions for arranging this with Hobart Pathology, Launceston Pathology, North West Pathology. They will send you the correct swab pack with instructions for correct collection and PPE procedure. Please request “COVID-19 and respiratory virus PCR” on the form and please also indicate on the form that the patient meets testing criteria, is in an RACF and that you have discussed with Public Health.
- Please ensure that the treating GPs details are also on the request so results can be copied to them.
- Public Health Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit (CDPU) will contact the RACF, collect some further information about potential cases and give further advice.