

COVID-19 Public Health Alert No. 12 / 24 April 2020

As of 24 April 2020, the Chief Health Officer has announced expansion of PCR testing for COVID-19 in Queensland.

Testing (PCR) should now be undertaken for **anyone in Queensland** with fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) **OR** acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

The person being tested should be isolated pending test results.

The Queensland testing recommendations are currently exceeding the CDNA National Guidelines, which are available at <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm>

New Chief Health Officer Point of Care Serology Tests Direction

Effective from 23 April 2020, a person must not use a point of care serological (blood) test (including an assay, test or device) to detect or diagnose COVID-19, unless they:

- provide pathology services for Pathology Queensland; or
- provide public health services for the Queensland Department of Health or a Hospital and Health Service; or
- provide pathology services as a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited medical pathology service with scope of accreditation in microbiology.

For more information, visit <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/point-of-care-serology-tests>

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