

Updated coronavirus PCR and antigen testing criteria during the fourth wave

The following categories will be eligible for Antigen and PCR testing, with Antigen testing encouraged as first line test as results are available immediately.

Note: If the Antigen test is negative, then a follow up PCR test MUST be done.

1. All those with coronavirus symptoms AND at least 1 of:

- Needing hospital admission
- At high risk of severe disease:
 - Age > 50 years
 - Diabetes
 - Obesity
 - Heart disease
 - Lung disease
 - Kidney disease
 - Cancer
 - Tuberculosis
 - HIV
- Clusters, as identified by health staff, in group settings such as old age/care homes, hospitals, schools, workplaces, hostels, prisons etc.
- Health care workers

The following should only be tested via PCR.

2. All those with no coronavirus symptoms BUT at least 1 of:

- Patients awaiting surgery – to test 3 days or less before operation.
- Exposed health care workers in quarantine with no symptoms at day 7 - to allow early return to work.

3. All natural deaths who had coronavirus symptoms.

Note: If previous positive test result for coronavirus, but with new coronavirus symptoms, only test (antigen or PCR) if ≥ 90 days after first test.