



Surveillance testing of essential workforce

As part of the Ministry of Health's refined approach to COVID-19 testing, selected essential workplaces are being invited to take part in targeted testing of their workforce.

This testing has an initial focus on this week and its purpose is to help ensure that Auckland can move down Alert Levels as quickly and as safely as possible. There may be further essential worker testing over coming weeks.

Due to the important nature of their jobs, essential workers mix with the community a lot more than most people during Alert Level 4 lockdowns – that's why testing essential workers will help us gain increased assurance that that we have stamped out the Delta outbreak in our community.

As this specific testing is for surveillance purposes, we're asking essential workers in selected workplaces who have **no** COVID-19 symptoms to do a **one-off COVID-19 test between Wednesday 8 September and Saturday 11 September**. This testing is **voluntary**.

Workers who have no symptoms **do not need to isolate** while they await their test result and will be able to continue their normal daily life under Alert Level 4 restrictions. This only applies if they are not a contact of a case, have not been at a location of interest and have not been told to stay home by Public Health.

We are aware that many providers may have already implemented surveillance testing in line with the Ministry of Health *Guidance for implementing asymptomatic surveillance for staff in Aged Residential Care (ARC)* that was released late last year. This guidance suggested that all facilities needed to have a plan to ensure that surveillance testing was implemented at Alert Levels 2 and above.

Getting your workforce tested

The code **SURV-EWORK** should be provided to your workforce to use when getting their test. This code indicates that they don't have any symptoms of COVID-19 and are part of our targeted surveillance testing.

Staff should take this code to one of our community testing centres. An up to date list of community testing centres in Auckland is available at: www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test. Please note: all previous Restricted Testing Centres are now unrestricted i.e. open to anyone who requires a swab.

Once the test is completed, your staff can return to work and can go about their normal life (under Alert Level 4) until they get their results. They do not have to isolate while waiting for their result, providing they have no COVID-19 symptoms, are not a contact of a case, have not been at a location of interest and have not been told to stay home by Public Health.

As always, anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms should get tested, stay at home and follow health advice about when they can return to work.



Anyone who has been at a location of interest at the specific times, as listed on the [Ministry of Health's website](#), must follow the instructions on the Ministry of Health website and call Healthline (on 0800 358 5453) for advice on getting a test and isolation instructions.

Testing of people who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been at a COVID-19 Location of Interest is different to the targeted surveillance testing of people with no symptoms.

This testing is also separate to the testing of essential workers who need to cross the Auckland Alert Level boundary.