

COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment Guidelines

COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment Summary

The Victorian Government is providing a payment to support Victorian workers, including guardians or carers, who are required to self-isolate or care for someone self-isolating while waiting for the results of a Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test.

Please ensure that you read this document carefully before completing the application form. If you need assistance, please call 1800 675 398 and select option 5, then select 4. If you need an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450.

1 Standard Eligibility Criteria

1.1 To be eligible for the Payment you must:

- be 17 years or over; and
- have been tested for COVID-19, or be the guardian or carer of someone who has been tested, within the last two weeks¹; and
- live in Victoria; and
- be likely to have undertaken paid work² during the self-isolation period and unable to work due to:
 - a requirement to self-isolate after the test; or
 - a requirement to care for someone who must self-isolate after a test; and
- not receive any income or earnings during the self-isolation period; and
- have exhausted or not have entitlement or access to sick leave or carers leave (including any special pandemic leave) during the self-isolation period; and
- not receive Australian Government income support such as the JobSeeker payment during the self-isolation period; and
- not receive another worker support payment, including the [Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment](#), for the same self-isolation period.

2 Other application information

- 2.1 The evidence that you provide in your application may be checked with other government departments and agencies to ensure it is correct.
- 2.2 You must complete your application via the COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment [website](#).
- 2.3 The Department aims to process payments within five business days. However, the

¹ The eligibility requirement that the application must be submitted within the two weeks following a COVID-19 test may be waived at the discretion of the Department based on consideration of extenuating circumstances.

² Workers include those that are permanent, casual, part-time, fixed-term, and self-employed.

payment may take longer to arrive in your account due to bank transfer timeframes.

- 2.4 You need to complete all parts of the application correctly to ensure it can be processed quickly. This includes providing the correct supporting documentation, a valid test date, and ensuring all documents have uploaded.

3 Available payment

- 3.1 The payment amount is \$450 per test.
- 3.2 You can only receive a payment for one test within a 30-day period³, unless you have been directed to have more than one test in that time by the Department of Health, its authorised agent (such as your workplace or an education provider), or a positive case.
- 3.3 You can receive a Test Isolation Payment and another worker support payment, such as the [Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment](#), only if they are for different periods of self-isolation.

4 Evidence of eligibility and compliance

- 4.1 To receive a payment, you must agree to follow Victoria's self-isolation guidelines while waiting for your Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test results. If you do not follow these guidelines you will be required to repay the payment.
- 4.2 To receive a payment, you must confirm that you meet all of the eligibility criteria and provide evidence if asked.
- 4.3 You must provide:
- details of a current identity document – either an Australian Driver Licence or Learner Permit (any Australian State or Territory), [Medicare Card](#), [Pensioner Concession Card](#), Australian Passport or Australian Visa (international passport); and
 - current evidence you are employed, which must include your name and be less than 12 months old (e.g. Payslip, Letter of Employment or Letter of Offer) or self-employed (a valid Australian Business Number); and
 - evidence that the Department of Health or its authorised agent directed you or the person in your care to get tested (this is only required if you have applied to receive this payment for more than one test in the same 30-day period).

The documents you need to apply for this payment have changed. If you do not have the required documents, please call 1800 675 398 and select option 5, then select 4 before submitting your application.

- 4.4 Applicants may be subject to audit by the Victorian Government or its representatives and may be required to provide further evidence if requested, including but not limited to, demonstrating that they are, for the relevant period:

³ A carer may receive the payment for more than one test within a 30-day period where the subsequent tests are for a different person or persons within their care. Evidence of a test may be required.

- a) living in Victoria;
 - b) employed or would have undertaken paid work if not required to self-isolate or care for someone who is required to isolate; and
 - c) in isolation or caring for someone in isolation following a COVID-19 test.
- 4.5 If any information in the application is found to be false or misleading, the payment will be repayable on demand.
- 4.6 Only individual applicants may apply. Applications through a third party will not be accepted.

5 Data and privacy

- 5.1 Any personal information about a person or third party contained in the application and project reporting may be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred by the Department in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic), Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) and other applicable laws. Applicants must give consent⁴, or where applicable obtain the consent of the person the applicant cares for, for the Department to undertake data validation with, collect and disclose personal and where applicable health information. For further information, please email: privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

6 Other information about this payment

- 6.1 The Department can withdraw or amend the payment or these guidelines and application terms at any time and without notice.
- 6.2 For more information about the Test Isolation Payment, you can visit <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/450-coronavirus-covid-19-test-isolation-payment> or call 1800 675 398 and select option 5, then select 4.

⁴ For instance, consent would be required where an applicant is a carer for someone who is required to self-isolate following a test for COVID-19.