



Special bulletin

9 July 2020



Updated data

Visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

COVID-19 hotline 1800 675 398

Introduction of pre-operative COVID-19 testing for all elective surgery patients



There has been an increasing number and spread of COVID-19 cases throughout June and July 2020, and the introduction of Stage 3 restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire from July 8 2020.

Pre-operative testing will be introduced for **all** elective surgery patients, within metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire (stage 3 restriction areas) in both public and private health services commencing as soon as possible and by Wednesday 15 July 2020 at the latest.

Following COVID-19 testing, patients should be advised to self-isolate until their admission to hospital.

Elective surgery should proceed as scheduled until and including Tuesday 14 July 2020, with all patients continuing to be screened using the up to date [screening criteria](#), as advised by the Chief Health Officer and the pre-operative screening checklist (**attached**).

Health services are advised to:

1. Use existing informed consent guidelines and processes to provide patients information about potential increased risks related to their elective surgery procedures as a result of COVID-19.
2. Continue to apply the use of the screening checklist for all surgery patients as part of the preadmission process and on day of surgery.
3. Begin preparation for local measures to be put in place to allow routine pre-operative COVID-19 testing of all elective surgery patients from next Wednesday, or sooner where possible. A patient information sheet and a checklist supporting the implementation of large scale pre-surgical testing will be made available on Friday 10 July.