



Updated coronavirus PCR and antigen testing criteria during the fourth wave



Western Cape
Government

FOR YOU

December 2021

As COVID infection numbers rise during this 4th wave, only the following categories will be eligible for a COVID test (antigen and/or PCR test).

Antigen testing is encouraged as first line test as results are available immediately.

- If antigen test is positive, then client has COVID infection
- If antigen test is negative, then a follow up PCR test **MUST** be done. If client has symptoms, ask him/her to isolate until PCR result available.



Test those with coronavirus symptoms needing hospital admission
(antigen ± PCR test)



Test clusters, as identified by health staff, with coronavirus symptoms in group settings such as old age/care homes, hospitals, schools, workplaces, hostels, prisons etc
(antigen ± PCR test)



Test health care workers with coronavirus symptoms
(antigen ± PCR test)



**Test those with coronavirus symptoms at high risk of severe disease:
(antigen ± PCR test)**

- Age > 50 years
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Heart disease
- Lung disease
- Kidney disease
- Cancer
- Tuberculosis
- HIV



**Only do PCR test.
Do not use antigen test
for this scenario.**



Test patients awaiting surgery, even if they have no symptoms
Test 3 days or less before operation.

(PCR test only)



Test COVID-exposed health care workers in quarantine who develop no symptoms at day 7 - to allow early return to work.

(PCR test only)



All natural deaths who had coronavirus symptoms.

(PCR test only)

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



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Western Cape call centre

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