

14 January 2022

COVID-19 testing result delays in Southern NSW

Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD) thanks community members for their patience during this period of record demand for COVID-19 testing services.

NSW Health Pathology and private pathology laboratories are working tirelessly to ensure results are returned as soon as possible but testing capacity across NSW remains under enormous pressure due to the Omicron outbreak.

Turnaround times for results have increased due to record demand for testing and increased positive cases that require a more time consuming approach to the way the laboratories confirm the test samples.

SNSWLHD asks those waiting for test results to wait at least five days before following up, and to not call hospital switchboards as they cannot access COVID-19 test results.

SNSWLHD facilities are unable to provide rapid antigen tests (RATs) to community members. Current supplies are used internally for high-risk patients and healthcare staff.

Everyone aged five years and over is eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be safe and effective.

NSW Health state-run clinics are offering a booster dose, using the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, to individuals aged 18 and over.

This booster shot will help people maintain a high level of protection against the COVID-19 virus, including both the Delta and Omicron variants.

People aged 18 years and older may receive a booster at least four months after receiving their second dose of any of the COVID-19 vaccines registered for use in Australia.

First, second and booster vaccinations can be booked at a NSW Health vaccination clinic, participating GPs or pharmacy, through the [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder](#). It is quick and easy to book and there are plenty of available appointments across Southern NSW.

Anyone developing COVID-19 symptoms such as headache, nausea, sore throat, runny nose, cough, loss of smell or taste, or fever, must isolate and get tested immediately, and remain isolated until a negative result is received.

There are [COVID-19 testing clinics](#) located across NSW, many of which are open seven days a week.

To help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- If you are unwell, get tested and isolate right away – don't delay.
- Wash your hands regularly. Take hand sanitiser with you when you go out.
- Keep your distance. Leave 1.5 metres between yourself and others.
- Wear a mask indoors at public venues and while on or waiting for public transport.