

# ADVISORY NOTICE : SUNSHINE WEST + SUBURBS TESTING NOTICE



## SUNSHINE AREA - IMPORTANT COVID NOTICE - 19 AUGUST 2021

The Victorian Department of Health, the Victorian Chief Health Officer along with the Victorian COVID Response Commander have raised serious concerns over new and unexpected detections of the COVID virus in wastewater tested within the Sunshine, Sunshine North, Sunshine West, Truganina and Tarneit areas of Melbourne. This early warning has led Victorian Health to urge anyone operating in Sunshine West Industrial Precinct to be tested and isolate until a negative result.

In the abundance of caution, it is recommended that **all workers across Sunshine, Sunshine West, Sunshine North, Truganina and Tarneit be notified of this advice and in line with Department of Health advice they undertake precautionary COVID testing.** In addition, all Members are advised to remain on heightened alert and remain vigilant across all COVID Safe plans.

Government advice received today is that it was "more likely than not" that someone who works in the area currently has COVID-19 and **workers in the Sunshine West Industrial Precinct have been requested to come forward and get tested immediately, even if they do not currently have symptoms of COVID.**

To assist your employees in this process we provide a link to the Department of Health website that lists [COVID Testing sites](#) and the Victorian governments website outlining [testing site wait times and capacity](#).

## WASTEWATER TESTING Q&A

### What is wastewater and why is it being tested?

- > Wastewater is used water from toilets, showers, baths, basins, sinks and laundries that passes through the sewerage system.
- > Wastewater across Victoria is being tested because the presence of viral fragments shows that SARS-CoV-2 – the virus that causes COVID-19 – has been recently shed in the geographical area of the sewerage system catchment.
- > Fragments of the virus detected in untreated wastewater in locations where there have been no recent known cases of COVID-19 may indicate visitors or people within that community have COVID-19 and may still be infectious.

### How do viral fragments get into wastewater?

People who have or recently had COVID-19 may shed the virus on used tissues, off their hands and skin when washing and in their stool. It can take several weeks for someone to stop shedding the

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virus. Over time the virus breaks down and small non-infectious pieces of the virus (called 'viral fragments') can enter wastewater and travel through the sewer network.

## **How are wastewater samples taken and tested?**

Samples of untreated wastewater are collected from sites across the metropolitan and regional sewerage network, including from the inlet to wastewater treatment plants. The samples are taken to a laboratory and analysed for fragments of SARS-CoV-2 – the specific coronavirus associated with COVID-19.

## **Is my drinking water safe?**

There is no impact on your local water supply from wastewater testing. Drinking water supplied by water utilities is safe to drink and for normal household uses.

## **NEXT STEPS**

To all of industry sector residing or working in these areas, please follow the Health Advice and consider communicating the recommendations from the Victorian Government. TRMC recommends;

- > If you work in the Sunshine West Industrial Precinct, please get tested and isolate until you receive a negative test,
- > If you reside in the Sunshine West area, please get tested and maintain COVID Safe practices across your household and workplaces,
- > If you reside or work in surrounding areas, please get tested and maintain COVID safe practices across your household and workplaces.

To employers:

- > We encourage you to assist on-site workers to be tested and isolate until negative, this may require rostering considerations, assisting with advice of where to get tested as included in this advisory notice, reiterating COVID Safe practices and more.

To suppliers entering the area:

- > The areas listed are areas of concern and remain operational for Authorised Providers and Authorised Workers. Companies distributing or delivering into Sunshine, Sunshine North, Sunshine West, Truganina and Tarneit areas should note, unless otherwise advised by Victorian Government, it is business as usual. Please ensure all delivery drivers and workers to maintain strict COVID Safe protocols – mask wearing, hand sanitisation, QR coding and more must be adhered to in all operations.

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The Real Media Collective is here working hard for all of our industry, should anyone have concerns or require additional information please do not hesitate in reaching out to the team on [hello@thermc.com.au](mailto:hello@thermc.com.au) we make ourselves available to Members, employees and supplier or contractor queries.

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