

Media Release

The Hon Jenny Mikakos MLC

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for the Coordination of Health and Human Services – COVID-19
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services



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CORONAVIRUS TESTING EXPANDS AT SHOPPING CENTRES

Six new mobile coronavirus testing sites across Melbourne will open today, as part of the Victorian Government's blitz to test up to 100,000 people in two weeks.

The new sites located at Bunnings West Footscray, Pacific Werribee, Pacific Epping, Watergardens Town Centre, Westfield Fountain Gate and Bayside Shopping Centre in Frankston are due to begin conducting tests this morning.

It comes after four new mobile coronavirus testing sites opened yesterday at Chadstone, Doncaster, Highpoint and Northland shopping centres – bringing the total so far to 10.

Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos encouraged Victorians with even the mildest symptoms to go get tested.

Symptoms that should prompt people to get tested include fever, chills, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, loss of sense of smell, or a runny nose. Even the most mild of symptoms could be a sign of coronavirus.

The testing sites will be manned by doctors, nurses and pathology collection staff – to provide a one stop shop.

The Victorian Government is working closely with conveniently located shopping centres who, as part of a broader industry effort, have offered to host mobile testing sites to ensure all relevant safety protocols are managed. Their support is critical and greatly appreciated.

Additional sites in regional and suburban locations will come online in the coming days.

People will need to bring their Medicare card, or if they don't have one, at least one form of identification. This will ensure international students and other visitors can also be tested if required.

Signage will be established to guide people into the mobile testing sites, which will be located near the busiest parts of the shopping centres, such as supermarkets, with appropriate traffic management systems in place.

More information on testing and where to go is available at dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#where-can-i-get-tested-for-coronavirus-covid-19.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos

"This massive testing blitz will give us the best information about how this virus is spreading in the community – and I encourage anyone with even the mildest of symptoms to help us out and go get themselves tested."

"These new mobile testing sites are located at shopping centres around Melbourne to make it as easy as possible for people to get tested – and there will be more coming online across the state."

Quote attributable to Victoria's Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton

"This is about taking the testing to where people are out in the community. The more people we test the more we'll know about the spread of the virus, which will help guide any decisions about potentially easing restrictions."

Media contact: Rania Spooner 0436 019 993 | rania.spooner@minstaff.vic.gov.au