

Pre-surgery COVID-19 testing

COVID-19 testing

In line with Department of Health guidelines, all patients undergoing elective surgery or a procedure in a hospital need to be tested for COVID-19 prior to their admission. This process also applies to parents/guardians accompanying paediatric patients as well as maternity patients and partners/ a designated support person. This is an important precaution to ensure your safety — and the safety of other vulnerable people in our care — during your admission, and your Cabrini care team is here to support you during this process. Further information about this process is outlined below.

Why do I need to be tested?

Recent studies have shown the mortality and morbidity rates for coronavirus (COVID-19) positive patients undergoing both elective and emergency surgery are higher than otherwise expected, even when such surgery is relatively minor. By undertaking a test prior to your surgery, your care team can better understand your current health condition. They will use this information to take the best precautions to ensure your safety before, during and after surgery and provide care appropriate to your condition.

What type of test do I need?

Patients (and where applicable, carers/partners) must have a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to surgery or attending the hospital. It is the patient's responsibility to source a RAT from a local provider, such as a pharmacy. Patients undertaking a RAT should do so one day prior to surgery, and then isolate until their admission. For more information: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19

How do I provide my results to Cabrini?

On admission, patients will need to show admission staff a photo of their negative RAT, along with their Medicare card and the date RAT was completed. Patients who present for surgery without a negative test result will be managed on a case-by-case basis. This may include postponing non-urgent surgery.

What do I do if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19 or if I receive a positive result?

Patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 30 days will not need to undergo preoperative testing. Please inform your treating medical team to discuss your treatment options.