

South Australia

# Emergency Management (Use of PCR Tests)(COVID-19) Direction 2022

under section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2004*

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## Preamble

- 1 On 22 March 2020 I, Grantley Stevens, Commissioner of Police, being State Co-ordinator for the State of South Australia pursuant to section 14 of the [Emergency Management Act 2004](#) (the *Act*), declared pursuant to section 23 of the Act that a Major Emergency is occurring in respect of the outbreak of the Human Disease named COVID-19 within South Australia.
  - 2 Now I, Grantley Stevens, being of the opinion that this is necessary to achieve the purposes of the Act, give the following direction pursuant to section 25 of the Act.
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## 1—Short title

This direction may be cited as the *Emergency Management (Use of PCR Tests)(COVID-19) Direction 2022*.

## 2—Purpose

The purpose of this direction is to ensure that COVID-19 PCR test resources remain available for persons displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or are at high risk of COVID-19 exposure and are not used in circumstances where rapid antigen tests are an appropriate alternative.

## 3—Revocation

The *Emergency Management (Use of Certain Point of Care Tests) (COVID-19) Direction 2021* is revoked.

## 4—Interpretation

In this direction, unless the contrary intention appears—

**COVID-19 PCR test** means analysis of a combined oropharyngeal/nasal specimen taken by an appropriately trained and qualified health care worker to test for COVID-19 (also referred to as SARS-CoV-2) using Polymerase Chain Reaction;

**COVID-19 Point of Care PCR test** means a point-of-care nucleic acid based test (upper or lower respiratory tract or oropharyngeal specimen) to test for COVID-19;

**COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test** means a self-collected antigen based test (upper respiratory tract or oropharyngeal specimen) to test for COVID-19;

**pathology service provider** means a public or private pathology service providing COVID-19 PCR test or COVID-19 Point of Care PCR test services to the public;

**symptoms of COVID-19**—a person has symptoms of COVID-19 if the person has any of the following symptoms:

- (a) cough;
- (b) sore throat;
- (c) shortness of breath;
- (d) runny nose;
- (e) fever or history of fever or chills;
- (f) acute loss of smell or taste;
- (g) headache;
- (h) muscle aches;
- (i) unexplained fatigue;
- (j) nausea;
- (k) vomiting;
- (l) diarrhoea.

**5—Direction**

- (1) A pathology service provider must not undertake the collection or analysis of a COVID-19 PCR test for another person unless—
  - (a) the person is reporting symptoms of COVID-19; or
  - (b) the person has been directed or permitted to undertake a COVID-19 PCR test by an authorised officer or SA Health or under another direction made under section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2004* before or after the commencement of this direction; or
  - (c) the person is required to undertake a COVID-19 PCR test prior to interstate or overseas travel; or
  - (d) the person has returned a positive result from a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test.

**6—Powers of authorised officers**

Nothing in this direction derogates from the powers of authorised officers to exercise powers pursuant to the Act.

**IMPORTANT—FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS DIRECTION IS AN OFFENCE.**

This direction operates from the 13th day of January 2022 at 0001 hours

SIGNED at Adelaide on this 12th day of January 2022 at 1953 hours



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**GRANTLEY STEVENS**  
STATE CO-ORDINATOR