



22nd August 2020

Asymptomatic COVID testing for heavy vehicle drivers in Victoria

The Victorian Government has changed its guidance to allow essential heavy vehicle drivers to get tested for coronavirus irrespective of whether they have symptoms. This change has come about after many meetings and discussions over the past week to ensure there is as much uniformity as possible across Australia when it comes to border crossing requirements.

The guidance means that freight operators and employers of drivers can organise **private** asymptomatic COVID-19 testing at **private** pathology laboratories. Most importantly, drivers who are asymptomatic and have their tests through a private laboratory are **not** required to self-isolate while waiting for their results.

The guidance means that freight operators in Victoria are now able to comply with requirements in South Australia for COVID testing every seven days as a condition of being granted a border crossing permit.

The VTA has requested a list of the private laboratories from the Victorian Government where testing is available. The Department of Health [advises](#) the test does **not** require a referral from a medical practitioner and that it will be bulk-billed through Medicare.

We continue to petition strongly to obtain common-sense solutions so that the essential movement of freight cross our borders, and the important work of our members, can continue with minimal disruption. Thank you to our many members that have provided information and feedback on this issue to make this possible.