



MEDIA RELEASE

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Victorian rapid antigen testing facility boosts supply chain certainty

The Victorian Transport Association has welcomed an announcement from Premier Daniel Andrews about the establishment of a local Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) production facility in Victoria.

The Victorian Government will support Lumos Diagnostics and its delivery partner Planet Innovation with their establishment of a manufacturing facility and innovation hub in Victoria. Pending Therapeutic Goods Administration approval, Lumos will produce one million tests a month from April, three million a month after July, with full production from October onwards of up to 50 million RATs each year. The Government will secure priority supply of several million tests from Lumos to meet demand in the coming months.

VTA CEO Peter Anderson commended the Victorian Government for investing in local rapid antigen test production, which will help improve certainty in the integrity of our supply chains as the economy re-opens and more people are exposed to COVID.

“The bigger issue for the freight industry, however, is access to rapid tests, which is continuing to be challenging for medium and small operators,” Anderson said.

“So, whilst we welcome RAT manufacturing in Victoria, we renew our calls for tests to be provided to the industry free-of-charge and from existing state and Commonwealth stockpiles, so that operators and drivers can meet their testing obligations and prevent our supply chains from collapse.”

Anderson said the larger freight and logistics operators generally had the capacity and financial wherewithal to source enough RATs for their drivers and operational staff.

“The real risk to our supply chains is the small and medium sized operators that are less capable of sourcing RATs. These operators – while smaller – are a vital part of the supply chain because they service thousands of businesses that rely on them for deliveries to service customers and consumers.

“These are the types of operators that must be prioritised for RATs, so that drivers can test regularly and keep working. With asymptomatic close COVID contacts in critical industries like transport able to return work immediately, the provision of RATs is essential for these operators to continue trading,” Anderson said.

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