

Changes to our Covid-19 Processes at Sanford

What has changed?

The whole of New Zealand is still at the Red Traffic Light Level, but because there are now more than 1000 Covid-19 cases a day, we are moving from Phase 1 to Phase 2. This means that **the rules around testing and isolation have changed**. These rules apply at Phase 2 and at Phase 3.

What does this mean for you if you have Covid-19?

If you are showing symptoms of Covid, you must get a test and self-isolate for 10 days. Let your manager know what is going on.

What to do if you are a Close Contact of a Covid-19 Case

Up until now, people who were close contacts of someone with Covid-19 were also required to self-isolate. However, **at Phase Two, close contacts who work in a business that is considered a critical service, like Sanford, can continue to come to work if they are fully vaccinated and do not have any symptoms.**

However, they must return a negative rapid antigen test prior to each shift for seven days. Rapid antigen tests (or RATs) are generally taken with a front of nose swab. You can take one for yourself, and a result is usually available within 20 minutes.

The idea is to let businesses, like ours, that provide essential products and services keep operating while minimising the health risks to the people working in those businesses. In line with this, if you are a close contact but you can do your job from home, please do so. Talk to your manager or to HR if you have any questions or concerns about this.

If you are a close contact and need to come into work to do your job, you need to:

- Contact your manager or HR. They will provide you with two letters, one confirming Sanford is on the Critical Services Register, and one confirming you are a critical worker. You will need to have these to be given testing kits.
- Go to [the Ministry of Health website](#) to order your RATs. You will receive a confirmation email containing your RAT Order Number, and can then pick up your tests from your chosen RAT Collection Site.
- When you collect your tests, you will need to take your RAT Order Number, the two letters, photo ID, a text or app message confirming you are a close contact, and your vaccination pass.
- Test yourself before each shift. After testing, record your result in [My Covid Record](#), and advise your manager. [This video](#) shows you how to take a test and record your results.
 - **A negative result means you are clear to go to work, but it does not entitle you to leave isolation for any other reason. If you get a positive result, you must self-isolate at home and get a PCR test from your GP or a testing facility. If your PCR test is negative, you can return to work.**
- If you have trouble carrying out the tests yourself, you might be able to get help at a Covid-19 testing service. These are listed on [the healthpoint website](#). If you have any other problems ordering RATs or accessing your My Covid Record, call 0800 222 478.
- If at any time you develop symptoms, do not go to work. Tell your manager and get a PCR test.

Can't I just get RAT tests from work?

It's a complicated system but the RAT tests we are using for surveillance testing at work are different from the ones the Government gives you if you are a close contact. So if you are a close contact, you do need to go through the process above.

What has NOT changed?

It is important to note that **some things are not changing for us** – and will not change even at Phase Three.

Proper mask use, staying in your work bubble, and good hygiene practices are all vital to reducing our risk of getting or spreading Covid-19.