Media Release



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Western Diagnostic Pathology to lift COVID testing

Western Diagnostic Pathology (WDP) today announced that it is substantially increasing its COVID-19 testing capacity to assist with the easing of lockdown restrictions and the re-opening of the economy.

Utilising its State-wide facilities, the expertise of its pathologists and rigorous testing procedures, WDP is targeting an increase in its capacity from 1,000 to over 4,000 tests per day.

It has secured testing kits, equipment and reagents from a diverse range of suppliers including from the Minderoo Foundation.

WDP general manager Gerry Mabarrack said, "Extensive testing will play a critical role in monitoring the health of individuals and of the broader community as we go through a staged process of easing lockdown restrictions.

"At WDP we are able to play our part in this and help to protect the Australian public by dramatically lifting our COVID-19 testing capability.

"Moreover, our COVID-19 collection centres and drive-through facilities provide easily-accessible venues where West Australians and Northern Territorians can get their tests done and get their results back within 24 hours."

The expansion of COVID-19 testing is being replicated throughout the country at WDP's sister brands, Laverty Pathology in NSW and ACT, QML Pathology in Queensland, Dorevitch Pathology in Victoria and South Australian and TML Pathology in Tasmania.

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For over 30 years Healius has been one of Australia's leading healthcare companies with a commitment to supporting quality, affordable and accessible healthcare for all Australians. Today Healius has three main businesses – pathology, medical centres and imaging - and three emerging businesses – dental, IVF and day hospitals. Through its unique footprint of centres and 13,000 employees, Healius provides diagnostic services to consumers and their referring practitioners, as well as enabling a range of independent healthcare professionals to deliver patient care in partnership with Healius' nurses and support staff.

COVID-19 Testing Process

Collection

- Patient testing can be performed at one of WDP's designated COVID-19 pathology collection centres or at one of WDP's COVID-19 drive-through clinics.
- Patients need a GP request form and Medicare card.
- Dedicated collection staff, wearing full PPE, will perform a swab test in the nasopharynx (back of nose).
- The swab will be transported to the main testing laboratory for processing.

Testing

- COVID-19 tests are performed in batches by automated processes.
- The ribonucleic acid (RNA) which contains the genetic information of the virus is extracted and assessed.

Results

- Within 24 hours, results are available.
- Patients can receive their results from their GP.
- From next week, patients who have provided consent will also be sent an SMS with their result, if negative, or instructions to contact their GP, if positive.
- As per public health requirements all results, positive or negative, are sent to the State Public Health department.
- All test samples are retained for approximately 30 days in case further testing is required.

You can view the patient journey here: https://vimeo.com/417056011/42444e7a7c