



Accreditation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing

Last updated: 3 July 2020

The advice in this fact sheet supersedes information published on MBSOnline on 1 April 2020 in the fact sheet *Claiming Microbiology Tests for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) factsheet*.

Accredited pathology laboratories providing or planning to provide clinical diagnostic testing and reporting for SARS-CoV-2 (MBS item 69480 and 69479) are reminded that as part of the pathology accreditation requirements, laboratories **must** be enrolled and participate in a relevant External Quality Assurance Program for testing methods.

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) Quality Assurance Programs¹ offers a SARS-CoV-2 Quality Assurance Program. Further details can be found at this link: <https://rcpaqap.com.au/>

In addition, it is recommended that laboratories:

- a) Access and utilise positive control material provided by a state or territory reference laboratory (usually a Public Health Laboratory Network (PHLN) laboratory); and
- b) Arrange for confirmatory testing to be conducted by a PHLN laboratory to verify the results. This means referring all positive samples for confirmatory testing, and referring a subset of negative samples where a strong clinical or epidemiological suspicion exists.

Where can I find more information?

If you have a query relating to interpretation of the MBS Schedule, you should email askMBS@health.gov.au.

Subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Services Australia website and you will receive regular news highlights.

If you are seeking advice in relation to Medicare billing, claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, please visit the Health Professionals page on the Services Australia website or contact Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

This sheet is current as of the last updated date shown, and does not account for MBS changes since that date.

¹ The RCPAQAP is a wholly owned subsidiary of the College. The RCPAQAP operates as an independent self-sustaining organisation and is expected to demonstrate a high level of customer service.