

Questions and answers

These Q&As have been developed in collaboration with DELWP, DH, DJPR, DPC and Vic Pol as well as the alpine resorts.

General

Why are these measures being put in place?

International experience has shown there is a high risk of spread in cold climates, where people come together to socialise and spend time indoors after a day out on the slopes. The safety of all Victorians remains our top priority and we want to keep regional Victoria virus-free. An outbreak which originates at the snow may result in the Alpine region being closed. We want to ensure Victoria stays safe and open and that the snow season goes ahead uninterrupted.

What locations does this measure apply to?

You will need evidence of a negative COVID-19 result to enter Falls Creek, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling, Mt Hotham, Mt Baw Baw and Lake Mountain.

Why are visiting Melburnians aged 12 and over required to provide a negative test to enter alpine resorts?

Whilst there are still active cases in metropolitan Melbourne, these restrictions will help stop the spread of COVID-19.

We want to keep regional Victoria virus free – that's why the public health team have recommended testing for residents aged 12 and over of metro Melbourne as an extra protection.

What will visitors to Alpine resorts have to provide as evidence of their negative test?

A text or email from their testing provider confirming that a test taken in the previous 72 hours was negative. Visitors will also be required to show ID.

Who has to provide a negative test?

Everyone over the age of 12 years old visiting alpine resorts from metropolitan Melbourne will need to provide evidence of a negative test within 72 hours of arriving at the resort. Certain exemptions apply.

Are there any exemptions for needing a test if you live in metro Melbourne and are over 12?

Yes. *Exemptions* include:

- for emergency purposes
- to escape harm or the risk of harm, including harm relating to family violence
- an emergency service worker who lives in metropolitan Melbourne and are required to travel to an alpine resort for the purposes of work are exempt from having to obtain a COVID test prior to travelling to an alpine resort where it is not practicable for the officer to obtain a test prior to travelling
- or if a person who lives in metropolitan Melbourne and is travelling to an alpine resort is exempt from having to obtain a COVID test prior to travelling to an alpine resort where it is not practicable because of the disability, illness or chronic health condition of the person.

Will providing a negative test be a short-term requirement?

This requirement will continue to be reviewed and assessed in line with other COVIDSafe settings by the public health team.

Do I still have to check in via a QR code while I'm at the resort?

Yes. You will need to check in at all venues and facilities via a QR code.

Do you have to be tested in Melbourne or enroute?

You must be tested in the 72 hours before departing for the resort. You may be tested on the way to the snow but you should allow up to 48 hours for your test to be processed. Proof of your negative test helps keep Victorians safe.

Will there be check-points?

Yes, there will not be check points in place before you enter the resort where you will have to provide evidence of your negative COVID19 test. In addition, Victoria Police will have additional resources on main roads to resorts to do spot-checks and roving patrols to support public safety.

Who will enforce the testing requirement on entry to resorts?

You may be asked by police, authorised officers or any employee or representative of the resort to provide evidence of a negative test on route or entry to the resort.

Will there be testing on mountains?

Residents of Melbourne are encouraged to have their tests before leaving as you must have your negative result before you will be permitted to enter the resort. There are testing facilities available in northern resorts for anyone who is showing symptoms. There are no on-mountain testing facilities on southern resorts - Mt Baw Baw and Lake Mountain. If you have symptoms – not matter how mild – get tested and stay at home.

Do you have to show your negative test result when boarding a bus to the snow?

Yes. Bus operators will require all passengers travelling from Melbourne to the resorts to have proof of negative test before getting on the bus. Passengers unable to provide proof of compliance will not be allowed to travel to the resort.

Do alpine resorts have the authority to request people to provide proof of ID and proof of negative test?

Yes. Under public health directions Alpine resorts can request people provide proof of ID and proof of negative tests.

Do Alpine resorts have the authority to refuse entry to people who don't comply with test requirement?

Yes. It is a condition of entry to produce a negative test result on request. This helps Victorians to stay safe and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Will testing be required as a condition of entry to the resorts for the entire snow season?

It is not intended that this will be a long-term measure. Restrictions and testing requirements will be reviewed regularly by the public health team.

Testing capacity and process

Will people who already have a booking at a resort get priority testing?

Testing sites currently have the capacity to manage the increased testing demand resulting from this change. Find your nearest testing site and wait times [Where to get tested | Coronavirus Victoria](#)

Will there be additional testing sites available?

Testing sites currently have the capacity to manage the increased testing demand resulting from this change. Find your nearest testing site and wait times [Where to get tested | Coronavirus Victoria](#)

How can I guarantee that results will come back in time for my departure?

It is your responsibility to ensure you are tested as soon as possible prior to departing for the Alpine resorts. Currently the majority of test results come back within 24 hours or less, however please allow 48 hours for test results to be processed. Find your nearest testing site and wait times [Where to get tested | Coronavirus Victoria](#)

Do I still have to get tested if I'm fully vaccinated?

Yes, you will need to be tested even if you have received a COVID-19 vaccination.

Will I have to isolate while waiting for test results?

No, you don't have to isolate while waiting for test results unless you have symptoms or have attended an exposure site or otherwise been directed by the public health team. If you have symptoms, no matter how mild, you must isolate while you wait to receive your test results.

Do you have to get tested even if you don't have symptoms?

Yes. Anyone aged 12 or over residing in metropolitan Melbourne planning on travelling to the alpine resorts as of 11.59pm Thursday 17 June will need to provide evidence of a negative test before entering the resort.

Do you need to have a test within 72 hours of visiting the resort or have results within 72 hours of visiting the resort?

You must have a negative test result within 72 hours of departing metropolitan Melbourne before entering the resort.

Does this apply to visitors who are already at the resorts?

No, only residents from metropolitan Melbourne who arrive at a resort after 11.59pm Thursday 17 June need to show evidence of a negative test.

If I am staying off mountain or leave the resort to have dinner, do I need another test?

No. A test before leaving metro Melbourne is the only requirement under the public health advice

Do I need a test if I live interstate but recently visited Melbourne?

No. The restrictions relate to people who reside in Melbourne, so interstate tourists are not required to be tested.

I live in regional Victoria. Do I need to be tested before going to an alpine resort?

No, only residents of metro Melbourne need to be tested. Regional residents can show proof of address on entry.

Day visitors and weekenders

Do day visitors need to show a negative test?

Yes. All visitors aged 12 and over from metropolitan Melbourne need to show a negative COVID-19 test result, taken within 72 hours of departing for the resorts.

Many people drive through the resorts to get somewhere else; will they need to be tested?

If drivers do not stop or leave their car as part of travelling through a resort to another destination, they are not required to be tested. The length of time a car stays in the resort will be monitored to ensure restrictions are followed.

If I visit a different Alpine resort each weekend and travel to metropolitan Melbourne where I reside in between, do I need to get a test each time?

Yes, you will need evidence of a negative test 72 hours before departing for an Alpine resort every time you plan on travelling to a resort from metropolitan Melbourne.

Resort staff and contractors

Many staff are relocating for work from tomorrow night onwards. They previously had an exemption; do they need to have a test now?

If staff have been residing in Melbourne and relocating to the resort they will need to have a negative COVID19 test before entering the resort.

If a staff member travels to Melbourne for a day trip do they need to have a test before returning?

No. Only people residing in metropolitan Melbourne travelling to the resort need to be tested. Regional Victorians are not required to be tested.

Do contractors at resorts need to show a negative test?

If the contractor is a Melbourne resident they will need to have a negative COVID19 test before entering the resort to work.

ID checks and compliance

Where will the ID checks take place?

Visitors ID will be checked as they enter the resorts or at designated check points. If they are from metropolitan Melbourne and aged 12 and over, they will need to provide evidence of a negative test within 72 hours before entering the resort. This can be a text message or email from your testing provider.

Who will be checking visitor's ID and test results?

You may be asked by police, authorised officers or any employee or representative of the resort to provide evidence of a negative test on route or entry to the resort.

What happens if someone refuses to show evidence?

If you refuse to show evidence of a negative test result you will be refused entry to the Alpine resorts.

Non resort snow locations

Are negative tests results required to visit non-resort locations like Donna Buang?

No, evidence of a negative test result is only required for the Alpine resorts.