

SA Pathology Newsletter January 2022



Our COVID-19 response



SA Pathology has remained the vanguard of South Australia's COVID-19 response. In 2020, SA Pathology established a robust and scalable COVID-19 testing capability, delivering over 12,000 tests per day during peak testing periods while maintaining result turnaround times of under 20 hours.

In 2021, following the release of the vaccination program, increased movement across state and international borders, and low prevalence of COVID-19 in South Australia, the challenge has been to maintain testing vigilance and rapidly identify potential outbreaks.

Since the borders opened on 23 November, SA Pathology has performed 773,795 (76%) of the 1,015,268 COVID-19 tests completed to 22 January. Over the Christmas period 20 December to 2 January, SA Pathology maintained an average turnaround time of 18 hours while sustaining over 16,000 tests per day, peaking at 19,226 tests on 30 December.

SA Pathology continues to deliver innovative testing solutions including the introduction of Rapid Antigen Testing to South Australia, enabling faster containment action for positive cases. Initially used by SA Pathology in conjunction with PCR testing for interstate truck drivers during South Australia's border closures, SAFECOM have now rolled out Rapid Antigen Testing across the state, providing even greater reassurance to the South Australian community.

1,015,268

COVID-19 tests completed

Other
providers



SA Pathology

773,795

76%
of all tests
performed in
South Australia

The recent establishment of dedicated COVID-19 drop boxes across our laboratory network is providing faster results to all healthcare workers and their families. The drop boxes are located outside the main entrance of the Frome Road Laboratory, and at the SA Pathology entrance of the Lyell McEwin Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre. Drop boxes are also located at the Berri, Gawler, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Victor Harbor, Wallaroo and Whyalla hospitals. This service is available to all healthcare workers and their families. All samples must be placed in a ziploc plastic bag containing a completed request form, including the patient's mobile number. A list of swab kits suitable for COVID-19 testing is available on our [website](#).

SA Pathology is proud to work closely with Local Health Networks and the broader health community to deliver high-quality testing solutions for the better health of all South Australians.

Faecal Pancreatic Elastase testing



SA Pathology now performs Faecal Pancreatic Elastase Level testing at the Frome Road Laboratory twice weekly, reducing the expected result turnaround time to under four days.

This testing was previously performed by PathWest and has resulted in the following changes in Reference Intervals:

PathWest

< 200µg/g

Faecal Elastase levels less than 200 µg/g is strongly suggestive of pancreatic insufficiency

> 200µg/g

Faecal Elastase levels greater than 200 µg/g are consistent with normal pancreatic function

SA Pathology

< 100µg/g

Faecal Elastase levels less than 100µg/g suggest severe pancreatic enzyme insufficiency

100µg/g – 200µg/g

Faecal Elastase levels between 100µg/g and 200µg/g suggest pancreatic enzyme insufficiency

> 200µg/g

Faecal Elastase levels greater than 200µg/g suggest sufficient pancreatic enzyme function

Testing can be performed from a random faecal collection; no special diet or cessation of medication is required.

[More information](#)

New iPath offers improved access to pathology results



A recent upgrade to iPath, SA Pathology's web-based result delivery solution is delivering enhanced functionality, a new streamlined look and improved access to patient results anywhere, anytime, regardless of whether the clinician is the requesting or "copy to" doctor.

To set up an iPath account or to update your current profile, please contact our Marketing team on 8222 3355 or email Health.SAPathologyMarketing@sa.gov.au.

[More information](#)

Follow us on Facebook



Following us on Facebook is a great way to get to know the SA Pathology team and find out more about the work we're doing in the clinical and research space.

[Follow us](#)

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

SA Pathology has been at the forefront of the response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Our team of dedicated clinicians, scientists, technicians, nurses and support staff are working 24/7 to ensure the health and wellbeing of all South Australians.

Visit our COVID-19 webpage to find the latest information, health updates and resources on COVID-19.

[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

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