



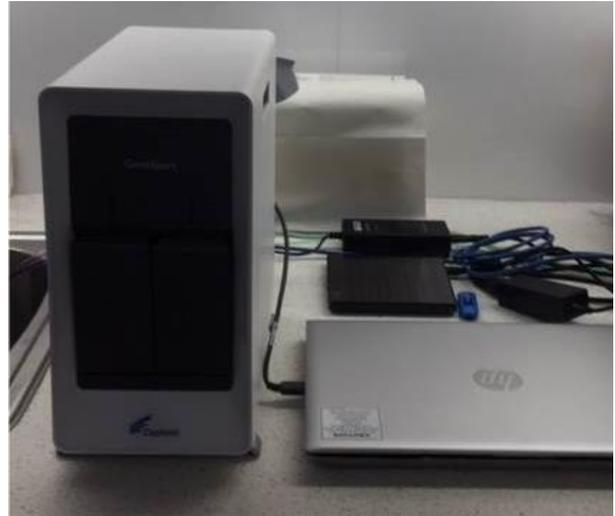
EMNI - MEDIA RELEASE

22 May 2020

REMOTE TESTING PROGRAM

NIHRACS is the grateful recipient of a GenExpert testing machine as part of the Australian Government rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) Remote Point of Care Testing Program for remote communities.

The test, called the Xpert SARS-CoV-2 test, uses rapid technology to detect COVID-19 infections at the point-of-care by using a nasal swab polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test in the early phases of the illness. Under the program, people will benefit from testing times being reduced to as quickly as 50 minutes with results back on the same day, and will enhance NIHRACS ability for COVID-19 testing.



Unfortunately there is a strong demand worldwide for the machine cartridges. The Australian Government (Department of Health) allocate the cartridges nationally, and each region has a limited weekly allocation. Therefore any swabs in excess of NIHRACS capability will be sent via plane to Sydney for testing.

People need to be aware that a negative test only means that you are not shedding virus at the time of testing. You could still be incubating the virus which would become infectious at a later date. So a negative test before someone flies to Norfolk Island or upon arrival is not a guarantee that they are not carrying the virus. Social distancing and good hygiene are still the most effective preventions of transmission.

CAN NORFOLK ISLAND RESIDENTS TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA?

With Norfolk Island restrictions reduced to Level 1, residents are now permitted to travel to Australia for non-essential travel. However please understand the requirements.

Sydney - you are not required to quarantine on arrival but will need to quarantine in separate accommodation for 14 days on returning to Norfolk Island.

Brisbane - you will be required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival and additionally quarantine in separate accommodation for 14 days on your return to Norfolk Island. There are some exemptions from the Brisbane arrival quarantine such as: Queensland residents; those travelling for medical treatment; compassionate travel; and critical service workers. For full details visit <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/border-closing#exempt-person>

RECOVERY STATISTICS AS AT 21/05/20

Currently Australia has 91% recovery and 1.4% deaths from all COVID-19 confirmed cases. New Zealand has 95.9% recovery and 1.4% deaths from all COVID-19 confirmed cases. Both countries have significantly different results to the worldwide statistics of 39.8% recovery and 6.5% deaths from all COVID-19 confirmed cases.



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It remains important for people at greater risk of serious illness if they get COVID-19 to take extra steps to protect themselves. You should maintain good hygiene and take care when interacting with other people. These are the best defences for you and your family against coronavirus.

www.health.gov.au www.health.govt.nz www.worldometers.info/coronavirus

Detective Sergeant Glenn Elder
IMT Incident Controller