



Monday, 11 October 2021

## Saliva Surveillance Testing for the Screen Industry

Surveillance testing is likely to become common in our industry. Some of the bigger productions are already doing it and in Australia surveillance testing is widespread. This document does not have all the information about surveillance testing, but it should hopefully give you a starting point.

### Saliva Surveillance Testing

Surveillance testing is generally saliva testing. Some companies may offer other options, but for the sake of this document we will only talk about saliva testing.

#### The How

- Essentially you spit into a vial, which is then taken to a lab to be tested.
- Some suppliers may come to you or supply production with vials to be collected and passed on to a lab. While for other suppliers you may need everyone to go to one of their collection centres (usually a medical clinic or a pharmacy).
- There is no need to self-isolate for surveillance testing.

#### The Time

- Usually two tests are recommended – i.e. if you're doing it for travel purposes, you would do one 4-5 days out and then another one 24-48 hours before travel. Some productions may also want to test 48+ hours after arriving into the other region.
- For long term productions, expect saliva testing at least twice a week, but this will vary with the tolerance of the production.
- Please allow time to set up an account with your supplier. And the lab will also need 3+ days to set up everyone that needs to be tested in their system. They will need contact details and personal information like NHI number and Date of Birth for everyone that is to be tested.

#### The Cost

- Please check cost with your preferred supplier. Regular mass testing is obviously more cost effective than one-off testing for a small production.
- Note that the quote will most likely be per test (and every person is likely to need 2-3 tests over a week).

#### The Where

This may not be all the currently available options, so feel free to do your own research or talk to your regular H&S officer about their preferred supplier.

##### **Auckland:**

- Rako Science / [www.rakoscience.com](http://www.rakoscience.com) / [leon.grice@rakoscience.com](mailto:leon.grice@rakoscience.com)
- Gila Factory / Robert Gibson / [covid-testing@gilafactory.com](mailto:covid-testing@gilafactory.com)
- Central Safety / Paul Andreassend / [salivatesting@centralsafety.co.nz](mailto:salivatesting@centralsafety.co.nz)

##### **Wellington:**

- Rako Science / [www.rakoscience.com](http://www.rakoscience.com) / [leon.grice@rakoscience.com](mailto:leon.grice@rakoscience.com)
- Central Safety / Paul Andreassend / [salivatesting@centralsafety.co.nz](mailto:salivatesting@centralsafety.co.nz)

#### Privacy

- Only the provider and the lab will receive your test result. Sometimes you may be asked to sign a consent form allowing your doctor and/or the production to be notified as well.
- Everyone will get an SMS message with a negative result.
- All positive cases are reported by the consulting pathologist to the Regional Medical Officer of Health, the saliva testing vendor. Regional Public Health will directly call the person who tested positive to

ensure rapid contact tracing and isolation of impacted persons. The H&S officer of the production should make contact with the positive case to support and assist wellbeing.

- Testing Surveillance data can be made available to evaluate the test results within a Production.

### **Symptomatic Testing**

Testing of persons with COVID-19 symptoms can only be undertaken by a authorised medical practitioners. This includes community testing centres and drive-through testing stations, medical centres and most GP practices. To find your nearest testing centre go to <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19/>.

### **Rapid Testing**

Rapid testing is only in the early stages of testing in New Zealand. It's likely to be the more invasive nasal swab and currently it's reliability it unknown.

Sincerely,

The ScreenSafe COVID-19 Group