



# COVID-19 suburban testing blitz

## Hotspot intervention plan

All Australian jurisdictions have agreed to take a suppression strategy to the management of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Under a suppression strategy it remains probable that Australia will experience periodic outbreaks given the:

- continued growth in confirmed cases in other countries, and the number of Australians and Australian permanent residents still overseas who may return
- sporadic community transmission.

Since late May, Victoria has commenced easing restrictions. In the early weeks community transmission was maintained at low and stable levels, in the last week an increase in outbreaks and community transmission in double digits has become a concern.

As a result, on 22 June, Victoria deferred some easing of restrictions (expanding venue caps) for three weeks and increased restrictions on family and social gatherings.

The six local government areas of Hume, Casey, Brimbank, Moreland, Cardinia and Darebin have been publicly identified by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) as coronavirus 'hotspots' due to the level of community transmission. The City of Maribyrnong also includes a suburb of concern but has not been publicly identified as an LGA of concern.

'Hotspot' was defined as having at least five non-overseas acquired cases since 1 June 2020.

A COVID-19 Suburban Testing Blitz has been developed to manage these outbreak areas of concern.

### Suburban Testing Blitz

A targeted testing blitz will occur across the following local suburbs:

1. Keilor Downs
2. Maidstone
3. Albanvale
4. Sunshine West
5. Hallam
6. Broadmeadows
7. Brunswick West
8. Fawkner
9. Reservoir
10. Pakenham

These suburbs have been selected due to the high rates of recent community transmission, the risk of undetected coronavirus circulating in the community and the risk of outbreaks occurring that threaten Victoria's suppression strategy.

Over the next **10 days**, commencing in Keilor Downs and Broadmeadows on **Thursday 25 June**, all residents of these suburbs will be eligible for free testing, with or without symptoms, with a priority on testing symptomatic cases. Over those 10 days, we have set a target of testing **10,000 residents** a day, to get a better sense of how the virus is spreading in these communities.



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