

Pre-departure COVID-19 testing for travel to China

22 December 2020

The Chinese Embassy has updated its requirement for pre-departure travel testing (refer [notice](#)).

From 10 December 2020, passengers must complete one COVID PCR test (swab) and one COVID IgM antibody test (blood) within 2 days of boarding their flight, providing negative results of both.

From Monday 7 December, COVID IgM antibody test will be available at SCL DUNEDIN for the purposes of pre-departure testing only for those travelling to China.

Time-frame for Testing and Results

The Chinese government currently requires samples for PCR and IgM testing to be collected within 2 days of departure. In order for results to likely be available, pre-departure testing must be ordered 2 days before the result is required. Please note that if samples are received the day prior to travel, results are unlikely to be available in time for travel. In addition, turnaround time for test results may be longer during times of increased demand for testing, as our primary focus is processing PCR samples for public health purposes; while the laboratory will endeavour to return a result pre-travel, it cannot be guaranteed.

Testing is available in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin only for the purposes of ensuring required turnaround times can be adhered to.

SCL cannot provide or arrange urgent courier pickups for pre-departure samples. Turnaround time for results can be improved if samples are sent directly to the laboratory (e.g. delivered by taxi or the passenger themselves).

For patients outside of Dunedin - Pre-departure testing for China is not currently offered in other regions outside of those above and travelers must travel to a centre that provides testing.

Payment

Patients **MUST** pay the practice directly for all associated costs of sample collection and analysis of all tests requested. SCL will invoice medical centres for testing as per the standard invoicing process.

- Novel Coronavirus PCR: \$138
- Covid IgM antibody: \$96.25
- SCL bleed fee (IgM testing only): \$14

Note: All prices are GST inclusive

Laboratory Forms

Manual Request Forms: Clinical details must be provided such as “Pre-departure COVID-19 Test” and include departure date. Please state “PAID” on the request form.

eOrder: If using eOrders, select “Chinese Travel – COVID PCR swab and COVID IgM serology”, in the funding category select “Patient to pay”. Clinical details must be provided such as “Pre-departure COVID-19 Test” and include departure date.

More Information

Further information is available on our [website](#) for both Referrers and for the Passengers. Please continue to check our website for ongoing updates.

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