

HOW DOES NSW HEALTH COUNT TESTS

Tests are counted differently depending on if the person has ever tested positive for COVID-19.

Person who has had only negative test results

All negative tests the person has had on different days are each counted separately.

Example

COVID-19 negative result

A person has a negative test - this is counted as one test.

$$\text{Person} - \text{Test}^1 = \text{Test}^1$$

On a different day, the person is tested again. It is a negative result. This test is also counted.

$$\text{Person} - \text{Test}^2 = \text{Test}^2$$

On another day, the person is tested again. It is a negative result. This test is also counted.

$$\text{Person} - \text{Test}^3 = \text{Test}^3$$

They have no further tests.

A total of three tests are counted.

Person who has had a positive test result

All negative tests the person has had on different days are counted separately and their first positive test is also counted. All tests conducted after the first positive test are not counted.

Example

COVID-19 positive result

A person has a COVID-19 test and the sample is sent to the lab to be tested. It's a negative result - this is counted as one test.

$$\text{Person} - \text{Test}^1 = \text{Test}^1$$

The next month, the person is tested again. It is a positive result - this test is also counted

$$\text{Person} + \text{Test}^1 = \text{Test}^1$$

The person has three more COVID-19 tests as part of their clinical management - these tests are not counted.

$$\text{Person} + \cancel{\text{Test}^1} + \cancel{\text{Test}^2} + \cancel{\text{Test}^3} = 0$$

A total of two tests are counted.

Multiple tests on the same person on any one day are only counted as one test, regardless of the results.

This method is different to how tests are counted in other states and territories. Nationally, every test that is done is counted. The NSW method provides a greater understanding of testing done to detect COVID-19 transmission in the community.