The COVID-19 Test Hardship Isolation Payment is an ACT Government initiative that provides a safety net for eligible Canberra workers who are required to isolate while waiting for their COVID-19 test result.

The COVID-19 Test Hardship Isolation Payment is available to everyone in the labour force who meet the eligibility criteria including casual, part-time, full-time workers and self-employed individuals. ACT and Commonwealth Government employees or those of a Government Business Enterprise are not eligible. To be eligible, the COVID-19 test must have been conducted on or after 17 August 2020.

Funding
Under this initiative, a payment of $270 will be made to eligible workers who isolate while awaiting their COVID-19 test result. This payment covers up to three days in isolation. If an individual’s test result takes longer than three days they may be eligible to receive $90 per day for each additional day they await their result.

Eligible applicants can generally receive one COVID-19 Test Hardship Isolation Payment within a 30-day period. If eligible applicants are directed by Public Health Authorities (ACT Health, Canberra Health Services, or authorities in other jurisdictions) or a GP to have more than one test within the 30-day period, they may be eligible to receive another payment and will need to submit a separate application for each test.

Evidence Requirements
If you believe you meet the eligibility requirements you can complete the online COVID-19 Test Hardship Isolation Payment application form or contact CMTEDD by email at TreasuryEnquiries@act.gov.au.
The following supporting evidence will be required:

› proof of identify (can include your driver licence, ACT Proof of Identity card);
› a utility bill, receipt of payment for rent, or lease in your name if available;
› proof of employment (payslips covering last four weeks);
› proof of exhausted sick or paid pandemic leave balances for full-time and part-time employees (can include statements from employer or HR reports), or ABN (for self-employed individuals); and
› evidence that you have no more than $5,000 in savings (bank statement for each account held showing the latest balance of each account) – if you are taking a screenshot using an online banking app you must ensure the account name and number are visible.

Evidence of a COVID-19 test will be sourced from Public Health Authorities (see section on privacy notice below). You may be contacted for evidence, if your health records cannot be accessed, and asked to source your test result from your GP or private pathology laboratory.

How to apply

To apply, please complete the online COVID-19 Test Hardship Isolation Payment form and submit all supporting documentary evidence. Your application and the supporting documents will be assessed against the eligibility requirements. You will not be able to submit the form if you do not meet eligibility requirements.

Where applicants do not provide the necessary information, the application will not be assessed. However, applicants may be contacted by CMTEDD to provide missing information. Successful applicants will receive the funding via an electronic bank transfer into their nominated account and will be notified of this via email.

The taxation implications of any payments made to successful applicants under this scheme may differ depending on an applicant’s individual personal circumstances. The ACT Government is unable to provide taxation advice and it is recommended that you consult your own professional advisor to determine any taxation implications that may apply.

The payment is administered by the ACT Government’s Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD).

Additional Information – Privacy Notice

We take your privacy seriously and we must handle your personal and sensitive information and any personal health information (referred to collectively as personal information) about you in a responsible and transparent way. Your personal information is also protected by law under the Information Privacy Act 2014, and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997. When we collect your personal information, we must tell you about the following matters:

Why we are collecting your personal information?

In completing the application form, you will be asked to give consent to the collection of the personal information provided in this form and provide CMTEDD the authority to contact any employer(s) detailed, Public Health Authorities (ACT Health, Canberra Health Services, or authorities in other jurisdictions), GPs, and/or your identified financial institution to access information for the purposes of administering the payment.

Who will we collect your personal information from?

In general, we will collect your personal information directly from you. However, with your consent, evidence of a test will be sourced from Public Health Authorities (including ACT Health, Canberra Health Services or authorities in other jurisdictions).
What happens if you don’t give us your personal information?

If you do not provide the personal information requested, your application may be delayed or not be able to be assessed for eligibility.

To whom will we disclose your personal information?

Payments will be made based on the evidence provided in your application form. Your personal information provided in the COVID-19 Test Hardship Isolation Payment form may be used to randomly audit the scheme.

We may contact your employer(s); Public Health authorities (including ACT Health, Canberra Health Service or authorities in other jurisdictions); GPs; and/or your financial institution directly to confirm and verify the information provided in the application form is true and accurate. Where it is found that false or misleading information has been provided CMTEDD may take further action, including asking you to repay some or all of the received payment.

CMTEDD will not use or disclose your personal information for other purposes without your consent, or unless a permitted exception to disclosure applies. For example, CMTEDD may be required to disclose information, including personal information, to agencies where required or authorised by or under an Australian law, court/tribunal order, or may disclose your personal information to an enforcement body where CMTEDD reasonably believes that the disclosure is necessary for its or the other enforcement bodies, functions or activities.

Where to find out more about privacy?

If you would like more information about how CMTEDD will handle your personal information, including how to access or correct the information we hold about you or to make a privacy complaint, please read our Privacy Policy available at https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/legal/privacy.