



ASA / NCCAOM Town Hall V Q&A

June 17, 2020, 5pm PDT/8pm EDT

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Europe and Australia Going Back to Work

Question: Is everyone in Italy and Australia able to get tested for covid-19 compared to the US?

Answered by Emilio Simongini for Italy June 19, 2020: Currently the Italian State carries out a sample survey through the national statistical institute. Some citizens are called to take the serological test (IgG / IgM). The processing of these data will give indications on the general situation of the population. In addition to this, the nasopharyngeal swab is performed:

- to those who have symptoms compatible with Covid-19
- to whom has been in close contact with one of the residual outbreaks
- to whom must undergo major surgery procedures.

Serological testing is performed less systematically to access healthcare facilities. For example, it was done to me two weeks ago to get me into the operating room, but then it was not done to me 5 days ago when I went to work in another clinic. Anyone can ask on their own initiative to take the serological test. The cost in Rome is around € 30-50.

Summing up:

- All suspect cases are tested. Not the entire population.
- In March and April, it was not possible to test all the suspected cases but only those hospitalized.
- Asymptomatic people are not tested by the health authorities but can do so by their choice at their own expense.

Answered by Peter Kington for Australia June 19, 2020: Everyone in Australia can get tested. Each state administers the testing regime, but the recommendation now is that if you are symptomatic for any acute respiratory infection, you should isolate, get tested. Tests are free.

As far as I am aware, asymptomatic people are not required to get tested. If someone is in contact with a symptomatic person, they have to self-quarantine for 14 days and then get tested if they develop symptoms. In the state of Queensland, where I live, symptomatic people can be served legal papers requiring them to isolate. Asymptomatic people cannot be forced to isolate, but they are strongly encouraged to do so.

Question: Smoking ai ye to kill the virus – is this put in the air to kill any virus which is airborne, or inhaled into the lungs?

Answered by Haihe Tian June 22, 2020: Just burn the ai ye. Let air fill with its smell in the room to kill the germ including the virus acting like an air freshener agent. Please do not inhale the smoke into the lungs so closely.