

Chief Health Officer directions

Post-incident testing orders and authorisations

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* provides the legislative authority for post-incident testing orders and authorisations (s134-142), and guidelines have been developed to assist with their implementation (see <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/guidelines-for-post-incident-testing-orders-and-authorisations>).

The Chief Health Officer has made the following directions in relation to these provisions.

I, **Dr Clare Looker**, Chief Health Officer, for the purpose of section 141 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (the Act) make the following directions under that section:

1. A hospital, multi-purpose service, proprietor or Director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine must ensure that a person who is authorised by that hospital or service or the chief executive or proprietor of that hospital or Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine to make orders or authorise testing for the purposes of section 137 of the Act:
 - a. is a registered medical practitioner who is a senior medical officer of the service;
 - b. has adequate knowledge and experience in relation to the management of sharps injuries such as needlestick, and other blood or body fluid exposures;
 - c. understands the requirements of sections 134 to 142 of the Act;
 - d. is familiar with the Department of Health *Guidelines for post-incident testing orders and authorisations*, as amended from time to time; and
 - e. is familiar with internal protocols of the health service involved.
2. A hospital, multi-purpose service, proprietor, or Director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine must ensure that all orders and authorisations made by the Authorised Senior Medical Officer(s) are kept in a central file, and that the file is able to be readily located and retrieved.

Signed: 

Dated: 22 January 2024

Notes:

- The word “hospital”, “multi-purpose service”, “proprietor”, “Director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine” and “Authorised Senior Medical Officer” in this direction have the same meaning as in section 141 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.
- Pursuant to section 141(2) of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, hospitals, multi-purpose services, proprietors, Director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine or Authorised Senior Medical Officer must comply with this direction.
- This direction and any other made pursuant to section 141 of the Act is available on the internet at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/guidelines-for-post-incident-testing-orders-and-authorisations>

To receive this document in another format, phone (03) 9668 7385, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email the Office of the Chief Health Officer](mailto:OfficeofCHO@health.vic.gov.au) <OfficeofCHO@health.vic.gov.au>.

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Available at [Guidelines for post-incident testing orders and authorisations](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/guidelines-for-post-incident-testing-orders-and-authorisations)

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