

Rapid antigen self-tests for COVID-19

A quick guide

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – especially Elders – are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Rapid antigen tests are one way to help keep you, your family, community and Elders safe.

What is a rapid antigen test?

- A rapid antigen test is a test you can use yourself to quickly check if you may have COVID-19. It can help to identify early symptoms of the virus, helping to keep people safe and well.
- Most rapid antigen tests will give you a result in 15 to 30 minutes.
- You can use rapid antigen tests whether you are fully vaccinated or not.
- These tests are faster, but not as accurate as the standard (PCR) test you get at your local Aboriginal health organisation or COVID-19 testing site. A PCR test is still needed to confirm if you have COVID-19.

How do I use a rapid antigen test?

- It depends what sort you use. There are currently two types of rapid antigen tests available:
 - Saliva – for this test you have to spit into a tube or suck on a swab. You cannot eat or drink for 30 minutes before doing the test
 - Nasal swab – each nostril is swabbed (Swabbing means putting the cotton bud on the end of the stick in each nostril).

Why use a rapid antigen test?

Rapid antigen tests can be used:

- if you want to quickly check if you may have COVID-19 (remember, it's not as accurate as a PCR test)
- if you have symptoms and cannot access a PCR test.

When to use a rapid antigen test

Examples of when it might be a good idea to use a rapid antigen test include:

- before attending a big gathering in crowded indoor or outdoor places, such as family gatherings, cultural events, weddings and sorry business
- before visiting a person at high risk of infection, such as an Elder or a person who is immunocompromised (such as people having certain cancer treatments)
- before going to a high-risk setting, such as an aged care facility or disability group home
- returning from a place with a high number of COVID-19 cases.

Where to get a rapid antigen test

Rapid antigen tests are available from supermarkets, pharmacies, online and from some Aboriginal health organisations.


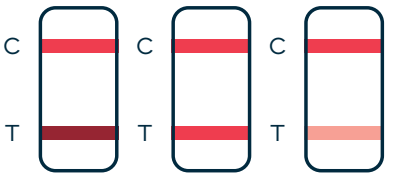
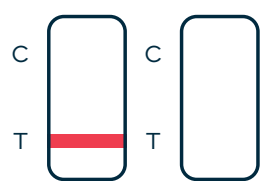
For more information and resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, visit:

[COVID-19 information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities | Coronavirus Victoria](#)



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What does your rapid antigen result mean?

Result	What it means	What to do next
 <p>✓ Negative</p>	<p>It is unlikely you have COVID-19, especially if you have no symptoms.</p>	<p>Do you have symptoms?</p> <p>Yes? Get a standard COVID (PCR) test to be sure.</p> <p>No? You do not need to get a PCR test.</p>
 <p>✗ Positive</p>	<p>It is likely you have COVID-19.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay away from other people immediately. Go straight to a COVID-19 testing site for a standard PCR test. Tell the testing site your rapid antigen test was positive. For more information contact your local Aboriginal health service or call the COVID-19 Aboriginal Infoline on 1800 312 911. Go straight home and stay in a room away from other people.
 <p>❓ Invalid</p>	<p>The test has not worked. You need to repeat the test.</p>	<p>Repeat the test</p> <p>Invalid again?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get a standard COVID-19 PCR test. <p>Positive?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the instructions above for a positive result <p>Negative?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the negative instructions above.

Children and rapid antigen tests

Rapid antigen tests are safe for use in children. If a child is aged 12-17 years old and wants to do the test themselves, they can do it with parent or guardian supervision to make sure they do it correctly. Children under 12 years old will need a parent or guardian to perform the test on them.

More information

For more info, you can call the Aboriginal COVID-19 Infoline on **1800 312 911**.

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