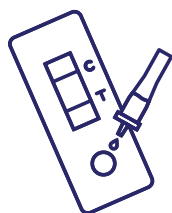




Australian Government

Department of Health  
and Aged Care

**BE COVIDSAFE**



# Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

## What is a rapid antigen test?

A rapid antigen test, commonly referred to as a RAT, is a type of test you can take yourself to check if you have COVID-19. You can do the test yourself at home without assistance from a doctor or other health care professional.

## Where can I get a rapid antigen test?

You can buy a rapid antigen test online, from pharmacies, or retailers including major supermarkets and some petrol stations.

## When should I take a rapid antigen test?

You should take a rapid antigen test if:

- you have COVID-19 symptoms
- you want to quickly check if you're likely to have COVID-19 — for example if you're about to visit an aged-care facility
- your school or employer has a COVID-19 surveillance program in place. Check with your school or employer for more information
- your local state or territory health department has asked you to.

## What do I do once I get my result?

If you get a positive result, you do not need to isolate at home.

To protect those around you:

- avoid contact with people who are at higher risk of severe illness
- wear a mask indoors when you are not at home
- wash your hands regularly
- do not visit high-risk settings, such as aged and disability care facilities and hospitals

If you get a negative result, you should continue to follow all public health advice on slowing the spread of the virus.

If you get an 'invalid' result, the test has not worked correctly. You should throw it away and do another test.

## Can rapid antigen tests be used on children?

Yes. Tests on children should always be supervised by an adult. See the instructions provided with the test for any safety instructions for using the test on a child.



### More information

For more information, you can call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080. Select option 8 for free interpreting services.