

# Rapid antigen tests (RATs)



## What is a rapid antigen test?

A rapid antigen test (RAT) is used to check if you have COVID-19.

You can do a RAT at home without assistance from a doctor or other health care worker.

There are two types of RATs – ones that can be taken from your nose, and ones that can be taken with your saliva.



## Where can I get a rapid antigen test?

You can buy a RAT from pharmacies, major supermarkets, some petrol stations and online.

## When should I take a rapid antigen test?



You should take a rapid antigen test if:

- you have COVID-19 symptoms but can't access a testing clinic
- you want to quickly check if you have COVID-19 – for example if you're about to visit an elderly or immune compromised friend or relative, or if you're about to travel
- your school or employer has a COVID-19 checking program in place. Ask your school or employer for more information
- your local state or territory health department has asked you to.

If you are using a saliva RAT, you shouldn't eat, drink, smoke, or brush your teeth for up to 30 minutes before taking your test.



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

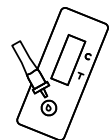
If you test positive, you should stay at home and isolate from others in your house if you can. Check with your local state or territory health department to find out:

- whether you need to report your result, and
- your local quarantine requirements.

Follow your local health advice to register as a COVID-19 positive case.

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

If your test is 'invalid', the test has not worked correctly. You should throw it away and do another test.



## Can rapid antigen tests be used on children?

Yes. RATs can be used on children and should be supervised by an adult. Young children may find it easier to use a saliva RAT. Follow the safety instructions included for using the test on a child.



## More information

For information about using rapid antigen tests and what to do if you test positive, follow your local state or territory advice. You can also call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080.