

Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Stores Process

Updated 15 February 2022



Western Health

COVID - 19

Be Safe -- Be Smart -- Be Kind

Background

The Department of Health provides a weekly allocation of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to all health services in metropolitan Melbourne based on a fair share allocation algorithm. These products are then distributed by Monash State Supply Chain (SSC) to Western Health. While RAT supply is limited, Western Health needs to ensure that RATs are deployed to areas considered of greatest risk. The health and safety of all staff members and patients is a top priority for the organization.

This process aims to ensure that RATs are used when clinically indicated and will assist in maintaining an adequate supply of tests for the relevant population. The PPE team is responsible for the distribution of RAT tests to approved areas.

Where are Rapid Antigen Tests Stored at Western Health?

Supplies of RATs at Western Health are held by:

- Western Public Health Unit (WPHU)
- Infection Prevention and Control
- WH PPE team
- Melton Health receives RATs directly from the Department of Health for patient testing.

Community COVID-19 testing sites including sites operated by Western Health at Sunbury, Melton and The Showgrounds, receive RATs in a separate procurement process directly managed by the Department of Health.

Procurement Services manages the bulk storage of RATs delivered to Western Health. At Sunbury Day Hospital, RATs are stored in the dialysis unit.

What is the authorisation process for use of Rapid Antigen Tests?

Authorisation for use of Rapid Antigen Tests for inpatients must be requested from the Divisional Director, Western Public Health Unit and COVID Response.

The following areas currently have approval for use of RATs

- ED, Dialysis, JKWC – MAC and Newborn Services, Pre-op, Day Procedures, and Day Oncology
- All admitted patients over the age of 5
- Infection Prevention for Outbreak Management
- WH COVID Testing Clinics for approved staff groups
- Unvaccinated visitors and visitors to Newborn Services

How do I order Rapid Antigen Tests?

- Once approvals have been obtained contact the PPE team to place an order
- The PPE team will determine the most appropriate brand to provide based on use and approval obtained. Volumes may need to be adjusted based on access to supply
- The PPE team based at each site will supply to the appropriate area

Who do I contact to order Rapid Antigen Tests?

The PPE Team manage the supply of RATs. They can be contacted during business hours below either by phone or by email COVID-19PPE@wh.org.au

Site	Business Hours availability	Business Hours phone number	After hours contact
Sunshine Hospital	Mon – Fri 0730 – 1600	0466 813 640	AHA
Footscray Hospital	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 0730 – 1400	0466 813 640	AHA
Williamstown Hospital	Weekly on Tuesdays 0800 – 1200	0466 813 640	AHA
Sunbury Day Hospital	Fortnightly on Thursdays AM delivery	0466 813 640	N/A