

Information for staff undertaking rapid antigen testing

Updated 04 November 2022



Western Health

What is this QRG about?

Rapid antigen testing has been implemented at Western Health to provide timely risk screening for COVID for eligible staff.

Who is eligible for asymptomatic rapid antigen testing?

Staff may be eligible for rapid antigen testing for a variety of reasons, including:

- Following an exposure at work; or
- Following an exposure outside of work in a social setting or at home;
- Meeting the following vulnerable criteria or living with someone who does:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and over with one or more chronic medical conditions;
 - People 65 years and older with chronic medical conditions;
 - People 70 years and older;
 - People with compromised immune systems; or
 - People who are pregnant > 28 weeks gestation
- Any staff member who wishes to participate in routine surveillance testing

Staff should ensure that they stay up to date with the guidance available via the [Coronavirus microsite](#) and regular WH Operations bulletins regarding eligibility.

What testing is involved for staff participating in the rapid antigen surveillance testing?

Testing requirements vary depending on the reason for participating in rapid antigen testing. For requirements regarding return to work after an exposure or testing positive to COVID, staff should refer to the 'Return to work after exposure or COVID diagnosis' QRG available on the [Coronavirus microsite](#).

If staff are completing asymptomatic surveillance testing due to being a vulnerable person, living with a vulnerable person or because they wish to participate in routine asymptomatic surveillance testing it is recommended that they complete Rapid Antigen Testing three times per week with less than 72 hours between tests.

How do I access Rapid Antigen Testing?

Locations of participating Western Health sites and their opening hours are listed on the [Coronavirus microsite](#)

You may then collect a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kit to take away with you. The kit contains 5 RATs and instructions on how to administer the tests.

How do I get my results?

You should follow the instructions on the rapid antigen pack regarding how to read your results. Results will usually be available after **15 minutes**. It is very important that you monitor the time and follow the instructions you receive with your rapid antigen kit because if you read the test result too early or late your result may not be correct.

What do I do if my result is positive?

You must notify your manager and not attend work. It is strongly recommended that you attend a COVID Testing Clinic for a nose/throat PCR as soon as you can. You must follow the isolation and furloughing guidance provided by the Department of Health and the 'Return to work after exposure or COVID diagnosis' QRG available on the [Coronavirus microsite](#).

All Victorians are also now required by the Department of Health to report any positive rapid antigen test result at the following portal:

<https://dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapidantigen-test/> or by calling the Department's COVID-19 hotline on 1300 651 160.

My result is invalid, what should I do?

If you record an invalid result you should repeat the test immediately with another kit. If you record another invalid result you must notify your manager and not attend work. You must attend a COVID Testing Clinic for an asymptomatic nose/throat PCR as soon as you can. You do not need to isolate while you wait for your result but you must not attend work during this time.

What if my result is negative but I have symptoms?

Staff who have symptoms should not attend work until their symptoms resolve. Staff who have a negative rapid antigen test but have symptoms consistent with COVID are strongly encouraged have a PCR test to verify their test result.

Reporting your result

It is a condition of participation in this program that Western Health staff report every RAT that they complete regardless of result. This is done by completing the survey found at the QR code below. This allows us to monitor results and ensure that we are keeping other staff, patients and visitors at Western Health safe.



Alternatively, click on this [link](#). Please ensure you complete the survey **each time** you complete a test to report your result.