

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Point of Care Testing Protocol

1. Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) may be used for public health investigation where the pre-test probability is high. For example:
 - Where a nucleic acid amplification (NAA) confirmed case has been identified in a closed setting
 - To rapidly identify an outbreak in a closed setting where there is number if symptomatic individuals and rapid access to NAA not available
 - Where community transmission has been established
2. An appropriate rapid antigen test registered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) should be used to perform the test.
The list can be found on the TAG website: <https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-rapid-antigen-self-tests-are-approved-australia>
3. A trained medical practitioner or a health practitioner will be the designated point of care test supervisor.
4. A health practitioner is a person who, under a law of a State or internal Territory, is registered or licensed to practice in any of the following health professions:
 - (a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice
 - (b) dental (not including the professions of dental therapist, dental hygienist, dental prosthetist or oral health therapist)
 - (c) medical
 - (d) medical radiation practice
 - (e) nursing
 - (f) midwifery
 - (g) occupational therapy
 - (h) optometry
 - (i) pharmacy
 - (j) physiotherapy
 - (k) podiatry
 - (l) psychology
5. All health practitioners are required to be trained in the safe and correct performance of the test, including sample collection.

Frequency of testing

1. Staff are to be tested each work day and test must record a negative result before commencement of shift
2. Residents are to be tested weekly where there is no current outbreak. Each facility is to nominate the day of the week when testing is to occur
3. Visitors are tested on each entry to the facility

Performing the point of care Rapid Antigen Test:

Ensure to follow infection control guidelines when performing a RAT test

1. Read the manufacturer's instructions and follow the steps in the instructions provided with the test you use.
2. Perform the test by the health practitioner or under the supervision of the health practitioner.
(Health practitioner is a Registered Nurse in AQ facilities)
3. Health practitioner who performs or supervises the test should wear full PPE, including N95 mask, gown, gloves and face shield.
4. Registered Nurse/Manager to take a photo of the test result for record keeping purposes.
5. Then discard the used testing kit as per facility infection control protocols.
6. Once the test is completed, both staff and the health practitioner to complete the Rapid Antigen Test spreadsheet.
(This can be located on the AQ intranet. Please keep a record of this spreadsheet for internal monitoring purposes)
7. If a negative test is received and the person is asymptomatic, they may proceed to work.
8. If a negative test is received and the staff shows symptoms of COVID 19 they must not commence work but are sent for a PCR test. They cannot return to work until a negative PCR result is received.
9. If a positive test result is received staff are not to commence work and the national isolation protocol is to be followed.
10. A positive result or negative result with symptoms are reported to the Manager immediately.
11. Manager to complete the staff screening tool and report positive test results to the Care Governance Manager daily by 0900hrs.
12. Registered Nurse or the Manager must report the positive result to the Qld Health by completing the Rapid Antigen Test Registration Form.
<https://www.qld.gov.au/rat-positive/rapid-antigen-test-registration>