
Rapid antigen testing for COVID-19 - Resources to assist employers

SUMMARY

Many employers are currently considering whether rapid antigen testing for COVID-19 is appropriate for their workplace.

Developments include:

- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (**TGA**) has released a detailed set of questions and answers and other information about rapid antigen testing.
- The TGA has published a guidance document and checklist to assist businesses to understand the key considerations for the safe implementation of COVID-19 rapid antigen point-of-care testing in their workplace.
- On 23 August, the NSW Government released an updated version of its *Framework for the Provision of Rapid Antigen Screening for COVID-19 in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings*.

TGA questions and answers about rapid antigen testing

The TGA has released a detailed set of [answers to frequently asked questions](#) about rapid antigen tests.

The Questions and Answers are being regularly updated. They currently cover the following topics:

- Where do I find out what tests are approved and who can supply these tests in Australia?
- Why aren't rapid tests that give results in 15 minutes used more widely rather than the PCR tests that take hours for results to come back?
- What is the accuracy of rapid antigen tests?
- Why has the TGA imposed conditions on supply for rapid antigen tests?
- Can tests be performed by persons who are not health practitioners?
- Where or who can the tests be supplied to?
- Can the tests be supplied to pharmacies or dental practices? Can a pharmacist or dentist carry out the test in a pharmacy or dental practice?
- What is meant by health practitioner? Is this the same as a healthcare professional?
- Who requires training?
- Why is training required?

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- Can training be performed on-line?
- Why does the testing need to be supervised by a health practitioner?
- What are the responsibilities of the health practitioner?
- What requirements are there for reporting the results of testing for monitoring and contact tracing?
- Is it okay for the sample for testing to be self-collected? Does self-collection of a specimen also need to be supervised?
- What about testing performed remotely with a medical practitioner?
- Can remote supervision of sample collection and testing be performed by video?
- Why is home testing not allowed?
- Can a freight company or other business purchase tests for their workers?
- If I am an interstate freight business, will the State/Territory government accept rapid antigen testing for drivers?
- Can I advertise a COVID-19 rapid antigen test?
- Can the test be supplied via a distributor?

TGA guidance document and checklist on rapid antigen testing

The TGA has published a [guidance document and checklist](#) to assist businesses to understand the key considerations for the safe implementation of COVID-19 rapid antigen point-of-care testing in their workplace.

NSW Government framework for rapid antigen testing

On 23 August, the NSW Government released an updated version of its [Framework for the Provision of Rapid Antigen Screening for COVID-19 in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings](#).

It should be noted that, the option to utilise rapid antigen testing as an alternative to vaccination for authorised workers has been removed.

Requirement for supervision of rapid antigen tests by a health practitioner

Rapid antigen testing must be carried out by, or under the supervision of, a suitably qualified health practitioner, medical practitioner or paramedic. This allows for immediate clinical advice to be provided in relation to:

- the correct collection of a patient sample;
- the correct interpretation of results;

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- appropriate patient management or treatment if required;
- handling of positive result; and
- arrangements for confirmatory testing and notifications to health authorities for the purpose of surveillance and contact tracing.

The practitioner is also responsible for the supervision of the way testing is conducted and making sure records are maintained for individual patients.

Do you require further advice?

For further information or assistance, please contact Ai Group.

Ai Group has set up a [special section on our website](#) to provide access to Ai Group advice and assistance relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery from the pandemic.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Smith'.

Stephen Smith
Head of National Workplace Relations Policy