

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing

Frequently asked questions

Rapid Antigen Testing

Where do I find out which rapid antigen tests have been approved for use in Australia?

A list of all rapid antigen tests approved for supply in Australia is available on the [TGA website](#) and is regularly updated as new tests are approved or if tests are cancelled or withdrawn.

You will need to contact the suppliers (sponsors) directly for further information on a particular rapid antigen test.

Can rapid antigen tests be performed by persons who are not health practitioners?

The TGA's [conditions of supply](#) require that testing needs to be performed under the overall supervision of a health practitioner, medical practitioner or paramedic. The person performing the test must have been trained in the correct use and interpretation of the tests.

What is meant by health practitioner? Is this the same as a healthcare professional?

Health practitioner is defined in section 3 of the [Therapeutic Goods Act 1989](#) (TG Act).

The TGA has confirmed that Paramedics are included in the definition of a health practitioner for rapid antigen testing.

Can rapid antigen testing be performed remotely with a health practitioner?

The conditions allow for rapid antigen tests to be supplied to health practitioners who may arrange for the tests to be available at a clinic or other site that can facilitate supervision of the collection of the test via video. Trained staff would need to be available onsite to perform or supervise collection of the sample (if self-collected) and to perform the test during the consultation with the health practitioner.

The health practitioner supervising testing via video must also be trained in the correct use of the testing device and the interpretation of the test results.

The use of a Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item, telehealth or otherwise, is not appropriate for this form of testing service.

Can rapid antigen tests be performed by persons that are trained to provide first aid or workplace drug and alcohol testing?

Following appropriate training, and under the supervision of a health practitioner, a person that is trained to provide first aid or workplace drug and alcohol testing could perform/administer rapid antigen tests. It should be noted that persons trained to provide first aid or workplace drug and alcohol testing are not registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and therefore cannot be the supervising health practitioner.

What measures of protection can be taken to prevent transmission to the health practitioner from a positive COVID-19 case?

The health practitioner responsible for collecting the swabs is best protected by COVID-19 vaccination. Wherever possible, the practitioner will have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. If self-collecting (under supervision), this will help keep a distance between the health practitioner and employees.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be used by the health practitioner at all times. This requires a surgical mask properly worn over the nose and mouth, eye protection and disposable gloves. For reference, Chapter 4 of [this](#) manual includes guidance on the use of PPE.

How can transmission of the COVID-19 virus be minimised in a workplace setting?

Every workplace must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan. This includes maximising the number of workers that are vaccinated, ensuring distance between workers is maintained wherever possible, and appropriate use of PPE (this includes wearing a surgical mask, use of hand sanitizer for everyone, and when necessary the use of surgical gloves and protective eyewear for health practitioners).

If there is exposure to a positive case on the work site, an assessment by public health officials will be made to determine the nature of contact and any necessary actions that are then required. This assessment factors how well the above measures are exercised.

Worker Permits in NSW

What are the permit requirements for a construction worker that doesn't live in an area of concern, but works in an area of concern?

From Saturday 28 August 2021, anyone entering an area of concern for the purposes of work must carry a permit issued by [Service NSW](#).

What are the permit requirements for a construction worker that lives and works in an area of concern?

From Saturday 28 August 2021, authorised workers from the areas of concern are required to carry a permit issued by [Service NSW](#).

Vaccination

What are the vaccination requirements for workers entering construction sites in Greater Sydney?

If you live in or are temporarily staying in an area of concern, you must not enter or remain at a construction site in Greater Sydney, unless you have:

- Had 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine; or
- Had 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least 21 days ago; or
- Had 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine within the past 21 days and you have been tested for COVID-19 in the past 72 hours (3 days); or
- Evidence of a medical exemption and you have been tested for COVID-19 in the past 72 hours.

What are the vaccination requirements for authorised workers who are not required to enter construction sites (e.g. food manufacturing)?

From 6 September 2021, authorised workers from an area of concern must not leave the area of concern for work unless they have:

- Had at least 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; or
- Been issued with a medical contraindication certificate.

This requirement does not apply for authorised workers below 16 years of age.