



Getting tested for COVID-19

There are different tests you can get to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19).



Rapid antigen tests - A rapid antigen test is a quick way to detect COVID-19.



PCR tests - This is a nose and throat swab that is taken at a testing clinic and sent to a lab to be tested.

Who should do a rapid antigen test?

- People with symptoms
- Household, social, workplace or education contact of a positive case
- Anyone before going to an event with lots of others, or before visiting vulnerable family members
- Anyone arriving from overseas (passengers and flight crew)

What happens if I get a positive rapid antigen test result?



If you test positive on a rapid antigen test you most likely have COVID:

Test result	Symptoms	Exposure risk	Next step
✓	✓	Known or unknown contact	You are a confirmed case, follow the advice for people testing positive for COVID-19
✓	✓ or ✗	Known high risk or household contact	You are a confirmed case, follow the advice for people testing positive for COVID-19
✓	✗	No known contact	You may be a case, take another rapid antigen test in 24 hours or have a PCR test

What happens if I get a negative rapid antigen test result?



If you are a household contact or had a high-risk exposure to someone with COVID then you must continue to isolate for 7 days. You must follow the [advice for people exposed to COVID-19 to determine your risk](#). To determine if you had a high risk exposure use the [Information for people exposed to COVID-19](#) and follow the relevant isolation advice.

If you have symptoms, please take another rapid antigen test in 24 hours or have a PCR test. If your second test is positive you are considered a confirmed case. If the second test is negative, you should isolate until your symptoms have gone.

Who should have a PCR test?

You should do a PCR test if:

- you have COVID-19 symptoms, but have tested negative on a rapid antigen test AND are at higher risk of severe disease including those who are pregnant, immunosuppressed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Pacific Islander, or unvaccinated
- you have symptoms and can't get a rapid antigen test
- you have been asked to have a PCR test from a health care provider.

If I have tested positive, what do I do?

Follow the advice for [people testing positive for COVID-19](#).