# Rapid antigen tests

## What you need to know

### Easy Read fact sheet

## How to use this fact sheet

The NSW Government wrote this fact sheet.

When you see the word ‘we’, it means the NSW Government.

We have written this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these words mean.

You can ask for help to read this fact sheet. A friend, family member or   
support person may be able to help you.

## Rapid antigen tests

A **rapid antigen test** is a fast way to check if you have COVID-19.

You can do a rapid antigen test at home.

You can buy rapid antigen tests at:

* pharmacies
* supermarkets.

### Can you get a free rapid antigen test?

Some people can get free rapid antigen tests from:

* their NDIS provider
* a neighbourhood or community centre.

To find a neighbourhood or community centre near you, you can check this list on our website.

<https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/free-rapid-antigen-tests-for-people-with-a-disability/contact-information-for-rapid-antigen-tests-for-tei-providers.html>

You can learn more about getting free rapid antigen tests on the   
Services Australia website.

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/get-free-rapid-antigen-tests-rats-if-you-hold-concession-card](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/get-free-rapid-antigen-tests-rats-if-you-hold-concession-card)

## When should you do a rapid antigen test?

You can do a rapid antigen test if you have any COVID-19 **symptoms**.

A symptom is a sign that you might be sick.

You might:

* see symptoms
* feel symptoms.

We have Easy Read information about COVID-19 symptoms on   
our website.

[www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/support/easy-read/symptoms](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/support/easy-read/symptoms)

You should also do a rapid antigen test if:

* someone you live with has COVID-19
* you spent a lot of time with someone who has COVID-19.

You can also do a rapid antigen test if you’re going somewhere:

* with lots of people
* where people might be at high risk of catching COVID-19.

Each rapid antigen test comes with instructions about how to do the test.

A family member or carer can help you:

* read the information
* do the test.

You will get your rapid antigen test result in about 15 minutes.

## What if your test says you have COVID-19?

If your rapid antigen test says you have COVID-19, you can tell us so we can help you.

You can call us.

**13 77 88**

You can tell us on the Service NSW:

* [website](https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/)
* [app.](https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/service-nsw-mobile-app)

If you tell us you have COVID-19 quickly, you can get supports such as medicines to manage your symptoms early.

Website – [www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-positive-rapid-antigen-test-result](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-positive-rapid-antigen-test-result)

A family member or carer can help you tell us you have COVID-19.

## When should you get a PCR test?

What is a PCR test?

A PCR (nose and throat swab) test is a way to check if you have COVID-19?

You can get a PCR test at a:

* hospital
* testing clinic.

A health care worker does the test for you.

You should always get a PCR test if you:

* are at high risk of catching COVID-19.

And you can also get a PCR test is you

* don’t have rapid antigen tests at home
* can’t buy rapid antigen tests.

We have Easy Read information about PCR tests on our website.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/support/easy-read/pcr-test>

The Disability Gateway has Easy Read information about getting a COVID-19 test.

<https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021-02/191-coronavirus-getting-test.pdf>

## Contact us

You can call the Service NSW COVID-19 Helpline.

**13 77 88**

You can go to our website.

[www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19)

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