

Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures: Provision of Rapid Antigen Screening in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings

Last updated 9 December 2021

Purpose

These guidelines and standard operating procedures have been developed to guide the delivery of high quality, safe and appropriate rapid antigen screening for COVID-19 in non-clinical and clinical settings in order to:

- Support the uptake of frequent COVID-19 testing in high priority settings
- Increase the proportion of people who can access frequent testing
- Reduce the number of people with undiagnosed COVID-19 infection in priority settings.

The Chief Public Health Officer has confirmed that, where the requirement for a rapid antigen test applies, of a kind approved by the Chief Public Health Officer, the approved process is set out in this document under the Rapid Antigen Testing Indicative Process.

This document contains:

- **Background**
- **Guidelines: Provision of Rapid Antigen Testing in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings**
- **Standard Operating Procedures: Provision of Rapid Antigen Testing in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings**
- **Appendices:**
 - A. **Screening Site checklist**
 - B. **Training materials and links**
 1. **Handwash Guideline Poster**
 2. **Handrub (Sanitiser) Guideline Poster**
 3. **SA Pathology - Video - Rapid Antigen Test Procedure and Interpretation of Results**
 - C. **Supervisor Competency Assessment checklist**
 - D. **Supporting communications materials**
 1. **Indicative Flowchart Process for Industry**
 2. **Information for employers and employees Fact Sheet**
 3. **Information for workers on their rapid antigen result Fact Sheet**

Background

SA Health has implemented a range of measures to promptly identify cases of COVID-19 infection and prevent transmission in SA, including rapid antigen screening and conventional laboratory (PCR) testing.

Should a person in SA be confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, SA Health has procedures in place to identify people they have been in close contact with. Those people are directed to quarantine as outlined in the [Test Trace Isolate Quarantine \(TTIQ\) Model](#) to minimise spread of infection.

The SA Government is committed to working with industry, aged care facilities, other health providers and schools to introduce rapid antigen screening, to mitigate against outbreaks in workplaces and schools.

Where application of rapid antigen testing is not appropriate to undertake at a particular site, a range of other screening options can be explored to detect COVID-19. This includes PCR testing, point of care PCR testing and saliva/PCR screening.

Rapid antigen testing is another tool to support the pandemic response but does not replace the mask-wearing, hand hygiene and distancing requirements of the *Emergency Management (Activities) Directions 2021*, as well as the need for vaccination and ongoing education of the community. This includes not coming to work or school if unwell, isolating if instructed to by SA Health and, where necessary, verbal screening of people to ensure they have not attended a location of concern.

The rapid antigen test is quick and easy. Typically, it involves a nasal swab (using a cotton bud-like instrument) that is then placed into a chemical solution and the solution is tested on the receptacle, which displays a result within 15 to 20 minutes. This [link](#) provides an overview of how the test works.

Rapid antigen testing can be performed onsite in selected workplaces and settings under appropriate supervision to ensure advice is available on the process for testing and how the result is interpreted.

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) conditions must be followed in relation to the nature of supervision and training that is required to undertake testing.

Please review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the TGA site as they cover issues such as the role of the health practitioner, training of staff, and models of testing supervision. For example, a health practitioner, medical practitioner or paramedic must be available (either in person, or available on the phone or by videoconference) to provide assistance or advice, as required, to people under their supervision in the correct use of the device and the interpretation of the test results.

A negative rapid antigen test result does not necessarily mean you do not have COVID-19, and a 'false positive' result may also occur. When there are cases of COVID in the community, it is likely that a positive result is a 'true positive', and must always be followed up with a diagnostic PCR test. It is possible that a rapid antigen test will miss cases of COVID-19, particularly late or early in the course of infection - these are 'false negatives'. This is why anyone who has symptoms must undertake a PCR test for diagnosis, and not rely on a rapid antigen test.

Rapid antigen testing is one pathway to increase testing for COVID-19; particularly for people who reside and/or work in a priority setting. The addition of rapid antigen screening to the mix of options in SA increases access to screening for COVID-19 as well as provides extra convenience to people who are required to test more frequently.

Guidelines: Provision of Rapid Antigen Screening for COVID-19 in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings

When Rapid Antigen Screening may be appropriate

Rapid antigen tests performed at frequent intervals have been used internationally and in Australian industries as an indicative screen for COVID-19 in their asymptomatic employees.

Frequent rapid antigen testing can reduce the number of new infections in the community, especially amongst people who do not show any symptoms and would not therefore present for PCR testing. To maximise the public health benefit, testing individuals two to three times per week is recommended.

The benefits of rapid antigen testing are relative to the amount of disease that is present in a population (prevalence), with greater benefit from settings with high prevalence. At low levels of prevalence, the risk of having a false-positive test results will exceed the public health benefit.

Although these tests have some limitations when compared to the nose and throat swabs undertaken with a laboratory PCR test, rapid antigen screening can be performed easily and onsite with results available within minutes.

The choice of target populations and how tests are performed are important considerations. Mass screening in samples of the population alongside contact tracing can focus the containment effort in affected communities and can assist with relaxing lockdown restrictions.

When Rapid Antigen Testing is not appropriate

If a person has flu-like symptoms or [symptoms](#) associated with COVID-19, or is a close or casual contact for COVID-19, rapid antigen testing should not be used, and the person should be directed immediately for a laboratory-based PCR test for COVID-19. The location of PCR testing sites across SA can be found [here](#).

Rapid antigen testing cannot be used in place of diagnostic PCR testing to meet the requirements of cross border testing as set out under a Cross Border Travel Direction.

Service Model

Therapeutic Goods Administration approved tests

Only rapid antigen test devices registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration can be used for COVID-19 testing in Australia.

At present, SA Health will also determine which of the TGA approved rapid antigen tests are preferred for use in South Australia. This advice will be provided by either enquiring with SA Health prior to procurement, or for businesses that have already procured test kits, providing SA Health with the name of the particular kit as part of the approval process. This is because rapid antigen kits have different levels of sensitivity and specificity.

Screening must be conducted in accordance with any product conditions placed on the test by the TGA. Information on directives for registered tests is available from the [TGA website](#).

SA Chief Public Health Officer approval to undertake rapid antigen screening

Please note that in line with current directives, self-testing at home remains prohibited in South Australia through a Direction under section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2004*. The Direction prohibiting the use of rapid antigen tests by the general public will remain in place for the near future.

Workplaces that wish to use rapid antigen screening for surveillance will need to apply for approval via the Chief Public Health Officer. A form to request approval will be available to complete soon. For enquiries please contact Health.COVIDRapidAntigenTests@sa.gov.au and include information on the proposed rapid

antigen test kit to be used, standard operating protocols and checklists developed and reporting process to be used.

Rapid antigen testing must be performed in conjunction with a health practitioner who can conduct or oversee the performance of the testing and provide immediate clinical advice if required.

See “Supervision of Testing and Workforce” section of this guideline for more information.

Supply for rapid antigen tests and supervision directives are also set out on the [TGA website](#).

Use of Rapid Antigen Tests

Rapid antigen testing for COVID-19 should be used as a screening test and is not suitable for use as a diagnostic test. Rapid antigen testing should be conducted two to three times per week with individuals in identified priority settings to maximise benefit and the detection of positive cases.

A person who receives a positive rapid antigen test result needs to attend a testing site to have an urgent PCR test to determine whether COVID-19 is in fact present, and must isolate until this result is returned. This result must also be reported to SA Health via the usual rapid antigen test streamlined process.

If a worker returns a positive test result, they must immediately leave the site via designated travel path and travel to the nearest [COVID-19 testing clinic](#) for a standard PCR test. The worker must undertake a PCR test and follow SA Health advice before they can safely return to the worksite.

It is important that worksites know how to find their closest testing clinic. Worksites should download details of their nearest testing sites so that the relevant addresses known to the testing supervisor.

Where a person declines a rapid antigen test at their place of work or school, then it is recommended that they do not enter the site until they can provide evidence of a COVID-19 test in the past 72 hours.

Information on what supports for people who live in SA and cannot earn an income because they must self-isolate or quarantine or are caring for someone with COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

Sites for Rapid Antigen Tests

Rapid antigen testing is designed to be done in a range of sites including non-clinical and clinical settings such as construction sites, educational institutions, fixed and temporary community-based sites, aged care residential facilities and commercial businesses such as food production sites.

Industries and schools can implement rapid antigen testing screening and may engage a third-party provider to manage this process.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration sets out regulations that apply to [rapid antigen test kits](#) and [conditions of supply](#).

General procedures for how to use a testing device are set out on the Appendices of this document. SA Health recommends following the manufacturer’s instructions for the kits purchased as individual devices may vary. Procedure examples provided by SA Health are as indication of how the test kits are used generally.

Conditions for the provision of safe and high-quality rapid antigen screening

Provision of safe and high-quality rapid antigen screening requires that:

- The testing environment is fit for purpose. All equipment is in good working order, all procedures are carried out accurately, efficiently and safely and the wellbeing and confidentiality of the individual is respected, especially in relation to test result.
- The Standard Operating Procedure set out below for rapid antigen screening in SA is adopted by sites providing rapid antigen screening for COVID-19 (inclusive of clinical and non-clinical settings).
- The Standard Operating Procedure includes:
 - establishing appropriate clinical governance
 - the standard workplace health and safety assessment
 - information on administering a test and delivering a test result
 - establishing a mechanism for confirmatory testing for individuals who receive a positive test result
 - reporting of data to SA Health if requested.
- All health practitioners and persons under their supervision must be trained in the correct use of the device and the interpretation of the test results. A health practitioner remains responsible for the conduct of testing and must be available to provide assistance or advice as required to persons under their supervision in the correct use of the device and the interpretation of the test results (either in person, or available on the phone or by videoconference).

Ordering Rapid Antigen Test kits

Businesses are responsible for procuring their own test kits, in line with the TGA requirements and, where applicable, are expected to cover the cost of implementing testing on site at workplaces.

Standard Operating Procedure: Provision of Rapid Antigen Screening for COVID-19 in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings

Overview

Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing sites can be established to mitigate against outbreaks in workplaces, aged care facilities and schools as well as increasing local testing capacity. This document provides guidance on how to establish a COVID-19 testing site safely and efficiently during the COVID-19 response.

Objectives

The objectives of establishing a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing site include:

- To promote early detection of community-acquired COVID-19 cases by maintaining a testing schedule for individuals every two to three days; and
- To support and encourage workers in industry and students in schools to get tested by making testing access easy and convenient.

Establishing Rapid Antigen Testing COVID-19 screening sites can provide increased testing capacity to areas of need, promote testing in areas with low testing rates and to mitigate against outbreaks in priority settings including workplaces, aged care facilities and schools.

Rapid antigen screening is one pathway to increase testing for COVID-19; particularly for people who reside and/or work in a priority setting. The addition of rapid antigen screening to the mix of options in SA increases access to screening for COVID-19 as well as provides extra convenience to people who are required to test more frequently.

Location

Rapid Antigen COVID-19 screening sites are located on a safe and easily accessible site.

The officer responsible for each site will need to determine the suitability of the proposed Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing location to ensure it is both safe and easily accessible. It will also need to be sign posted so workers and students can find it easily and ensure that they are appropriately spaced while waiting to be tested.

Signage and instructions about social distancing, checking in and checking out and mask-wearing can be downloaded from the [SA Health website](#) to assist with consistent messaging. General and [industry specific](#) materials, as well as translated materials are also available.

If it is determined that a location may be suitable for a Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing site, a site checklist (see Appendices) should be completed to ensure other relevant factors have been considered prior to set-up. The chosen site should be monitored and checked daily for any environmental changes.

The key questions below should be considered when determining the suitability of the site.

- Is there access to utilities including power, wi-fi and water?
- Is the site mobility friendly (if required)?
- Is the site well-lit?
- Consider security of any equipment/structures that may be left unattended after-hours.
- Are there staff amenities within proximity including a toilet (both male and female)?
- Does the site offer weather protection e.g. ability to erect awning or marquee for sun, wind and rain during testing?

Management of sites

Rapid Antigen COVID-19 screening sites are run safely and efficiently. An Indicative flowchart process for settings is available in Appendix D.1 to help guide rapid antigen testing of workers.

The officer responsible will need to ensure site governance is established and communicated to workers and students and the health professionals and supervisors overseeing the testing process.

The key questions below should be considered for safe and effective management of site staff who are undertaking and supervising the testing process.

- Is there an agreed orientation process for all health professional and supervising staff to the site?
- Is their sufficient staff mix to ensure wait times for workers and students is minimised and allowance for staff breaks?
- The ratio of health practitioners to people under their supervision will vary from site to site depending on the size and complexity of the site as well as the experience of the staff in performing the test.
- Are all health professional and supervising staff aware of the need to correctly use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)? Is enough PPE available including surgical masks, surgical gloves and a safe disposal process for waste materials?
- Is their suitable hand sanitising stations for workers and students set up to avoid congestion?
- Are QR codes clearly established to assist with the check in process and spaced sufficiently to avoid congestion?

Priority populations

Provide Rapid Antigen COVID-19 screening in a culturally safe manner.

COVID-19 testing is a core strategy in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in the South Australian population. It is vital that all parts of the population can access testing when appropriate. With regards to rapid antigen testing, priority populations may include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and those who may have mobility issues or other special needs.

The key questions below should be considered to support rapid antigen testing for vulnerable populations in order to provide culturally safe practices.

- Is there an opportunity for members of the Aboriginal health workforce to be trained to perform swabs?
- Are testing sites in the area mobility friendly? Particularly where students and workers are known to have mobility issues.
- Have opportunities to promote COVID-19 testing within existing health activities for vulnerable populations been considered and implemented?
- Is translated material available as required to assist with messaging?

Signage and communication

The screening clinic has clear signage indicating the Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing site's location and instructions for users whilst on site.

The officer responsible will need to ensure planning of appropriate signage to indicate the location of the site and any other relevant information. Advice for workers and students ahead of screening should be considered. An example of messaging for individuals is listed here, together with supporting fact sheets for industry and schools.

Depending on the needs of the local community, signage in alternate languages should also be considered.

Signage should be weatherproof and secured to objects with consideration of work health and safety principles.

Signage and instructions about social distancing, checking in and checking out and mask-wearing can be downloaded from the [SA Health website](#) to assist with consistent messaging.

General and [industry specific](#) materials, as well as translated materials are also available.

The key questions below should be considered when developing and publishing communication or signage.

- Has the location and hours of the site been communicated to the target audience?
- Do workers and students have access to instructions as to site process?
- Have information brochures for individuals been developed and distributed?
- Has appropriate signage been set up upon entry to the site?

Equipment, consumable and waste management

Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing sites and site staff have adequate access to identified resources and re-supply pathways and are aware of escalation pathways.

The officer responsible will need to determine the anticipated demand for stock and the logistics for safe storage and re-supply of both test kits and supporting materials like PPE. Staff working on site should be familiar with the location of stock and stock ordering procedures.

Waste management on site should be considered and planned.

Used test kits are considered Biohazard Waste and do require special disposal arrangements. For more information on Biohazard go to: <https://bit.ly/3cBfAOq>

Used PPE is considered general waste (materials are not recyclable) and do not require special disposal arrangements, however it is recommended that waste be disposed of safely and in sealed rubbish containers. Regular emptying of rubbish containers should be undertaken to avoid overflow or the need to touch used materials again, once disposed of.

The key questions below should be considered when developing plans for equipment and waste management.

- Have supply chains for stock been established and communicated to relevant staff, including escalation pathways for stock shortages?
- Is there an agreed process for removing waste safely from the site?

Testing site operations

Registration processes, privacy concerns and traffic movement within the site are clear and effective.

Information should be available to workers and students that use the site to inform them of their privacy and how personal information will be used.

Where SA Health seeks any testing data to evaluate the program, no personal health data is used without consent.

The key questions below should be considered when documenting and communicating the operational processes of the site.

- Have flow pathways been clearly mapped out and communicated to staff to ensure there is no congestion in testing sites?
- Does the flow of traffic take into consideration the need for physical distancing at all times – is this clearly signposted/documentated?
- Have site registration processes (such as QR code check in) been clearly documented and communicated to workers, students and test site staff?
- Have considerations been made as to how site operations should change during periods of surge activity? Have these processes been agreed?
- Are new staff provided with site processes and protocols during orientation?

Supervision of testing and workforce

Supervision is a key responsibility for controlling the risks to worker and student safety and welfare that may arise while providing a testing service. Supervision of testing goes to the professional conduct of a health practitioner.

Once appropriately trained in the correct use of the device, persons under the supervision (either in person, or available on the phone or by videoconference) of a health practitioner may perform the test.

The relevant health practitioner responsible for supervision of testing is required to ensure all people performing the test (including sample collection, performing tests and interpreting test results) under their supervision are appropriately trained in all matters related to good testing practice, including:

- infection control practices, including assessment of any site-specific work, health and safety risks;
- the collection of samples, or where applicable the supervision of self-collection in order to verify patient identification, sample collection, test performance and test results;
- the correct use of the device and interpretation of test results;
- protocols for recording results and requirements for notification of positive results;
- protocols and referral processes for recollection and confirmatory testing; and
- protocols for reporting any problems or adverse events associated with performance of the test to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

A health practitioner remains responsible for the conduct of testing and must be available to provide assistance or advice as required to persons under their supervision in the correct use of the device and the interpretation of the test results (either in person, or available on the phone or by videoconference).

The ratio of health practitioners to people under their supervision will vary from site to site depending on the size and complexity of the site as well as the experience of the staff in performing the test.

Employers and industries implementing rapid antigen testing screening for their workforce may engage a third party provider to manage this process.

Where samples are self-collected by individuals, the collection must be supervised to verify patient identification, sample collection, test performance and the interpretation of test results.

[Definition of a health practitioner](#) (from the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989):

“health practitioner” means 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
- (m) paramedic

TGA has confirmed that a Paramedic is also deemed a “health practitioner” for the purpose of rapid antigen testing.

Health practitioner training to supervise rapid antigen screening

Health practitioners are required to undertake appropriate training prior to commencing rapid antigen screening.

SA Pathology undertakes training and has been actively providing training to a range of health and government agencies.

Businesses may engage appropriately qualified private providers to conduct rapid antigen testing training for their workplace.

Support workers

In addition to health practitioners and trained staff engaged to oversee the testing process, and dependent on numbers of students and workers requiring testing in a period, organisations should consider support services including a concierge function and/or COVID Marshall for logistics and crowd control; and administration staff to support the process.

Management of results

Non-negative Results

In line with the Rapid Antigen Testing Indicative Process, a person who receives a non-negative rapid antigen test result needs to have an urgent PCR test on a second collection to determine whether COVID-19 is in fact present. They must isolate until a negative PCR result is returned. This result must also be reported to SA Health via the usual streamlined reporting process.

If a worker returns a non-negative test result, they must immediately leave the site via designated travel path and travel to the nearest [COVID-19 testing clinic](#) for a standard PCR test. The worker must undertake a PCR test and follow SA Health advice before they can safely return to the worksite.

It is important that worksites know how to find their closest testing clinic. Worksites should download details of their nearest testing sites so that the relevant addresses known to the testing supervisor.

Negative Results

In line with the Rapid Antigen Testing Indicative Process, where a person receives a negative result, they must have the test result registered with testing supervisor; the person can then check out of rapid antigen testing site and go to their work site.

If an individual has, or develops any symptoms, even if mild, they must immediately get a standard COVID-19 PCR test and isolate until they get a negative result from SA Health. They must not undertake a rapid antigen test, as even if a negative result is returned it is still necessary to present for a PCR diagnostic test.

Individuals must continue to follow the latest health advice and restrictions in their area.

Reporting of data

SA Health will require reporting of all rapid antigen test results from workplace screening via the process advised in your approval process or as determined by SA Health.

For workplace sites using the SA Pathology app for data collection, this data will be reported to SA Health through an established data feed.

Individuals who receive a non-negative rapid antigen test result as part of workplace screening may be followed up by SA Health to confirm if they seek a COVID PCR test following their non-negative rapid antigen test result.

For workplace sites that do not use the SA Pathology app for data collection, reporting of results will be required through the process advised by SA Health when approval is provided to commence rapid antigen screening.

All rapid antigen screening results, including negative results, must be reported to SA Health

Appendices:

A. Screening Site checklist

B. Training materials and links

1. Handwash Guideline Poster
2. Handrub (Sanitiser) Guideline Poster
3. SA Pathology - Video - Rapid Antigen Test Procedure and Interpretation of Results

C. Supervisor Competency Assessment checklist

D. Supporting communications materials

1. Indicative Flowchart Process for Industry
2. Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing and Screening in Workplaces
3. Fact Sheet: Information for workers on their rapid antigen result


Appendix A – Screening Site checklist

ITEM	COMPLETED YES/NO	DATE
SITE REQUIREMENTS		
Connection to essential utilities		
Clear signage to identify clinic location		
Signage to indicate process / directions to individuals including entry, exit, registration location etc.		
Adequate space for QR code registration space outside or immediately inside building allowing for adequate social distancing		
Adequate space to allow social distancing when lining up prior to receiving test (1.5m between people clearly marked / indicated)		
Adequate space to maintain social distancing in entire area		
Signage to reinforce social distancing requirements		
Wheelchair access – where required		
Accessible toilets with social distancing signage		
Undercover wet weather area (allowing for social distancing)		
One-way flow i.e. one entry and one exit		
Adequate ventilation for enclosed spaces		
SCREENING REQUIREMENTS		
Privacy considerations		
Bench or table for storage		
Garbage bin – secured and emptied regularly		
Adequate numbers of tables and chairs for testing staff (allowing for social distancing)		
PPE REQUIREMENTS		
PPE for workforce (surgical mask, gloves)		
Masks for support staff		
Masks for all individuals awaiting test (to sit at registration tables)		
Signage to reinforce appropriate mask use		
EQUIPMENT & ICT REQUIREMENTS		
Tape to mark social distancing requirements		
Hand sanitiser for registration space and waiting areas		
Information sheets for patients		
Wifi for QR codes and downloading information		
Mobile range to make calls to PHU if required for positive test results		
Stationary		
STAFF INSTRUCTIONS		
Staff orientated to site and workflows		
Staff provided with re-stocking of kit supplies process		

How to Handwash?

WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED! OTHERWISE, USE HANDRUB

 Duration of the handwash (steps 2-7): 15-20 seconds

 Duration of the entire procedure: 40-60 seconds



Wet hands with water;



Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces;



Rub hands palm to palm;



Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;



Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;



Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;



Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;



Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;



Rinse hands with water;



Dry hands thoroughly with a single use towel;



Use towel to turn off faucet;



Your hands are now safe.



World Health
Organization


Patient Safety

A World Alliance for Safer Health Care

SAVE LIVES
Clean Your Hands

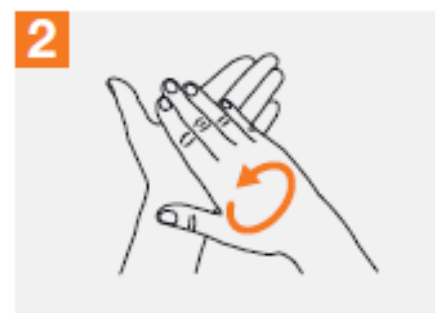
How to Handrub?

RUB HANDS FOR HAND HYGIENE! WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED

 Duration of the entire procedure: **20-30 seconds**



Apply a palmful of the product in a cupped hand, covering all surfaces;



Rub hands palm to palm;



Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;



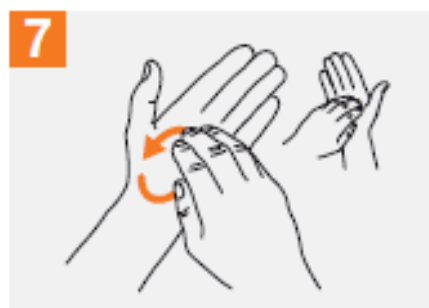
Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;



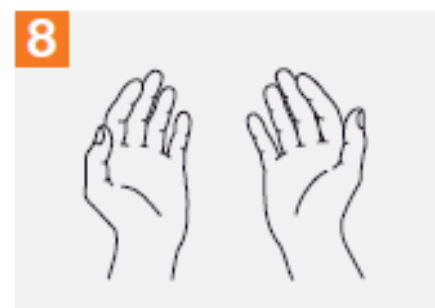
Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;



Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;



Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;



Once dry, your hands are safe.



World Health Organization

Patient Safety

A World Alliance for Safer Health Care

SAVE LIVES
Clean Your Hands

Appendix B.3.

SA Pathology video - Rapid Antigen Test Procedure and Interpretation of Results

A video showing the Rapid Antigen Test Procedure and Interpretation of Results is available on the SA Health YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/Fml-YK8KPi0>



Appendix C - Supervisor Competency Assessment checklist

Element – operator must understand the rationale and procedural task	Trainee	Supervisor
1. Site preparation		
1.1. Prepares necessary equipment and supplies		
1.2. Supplies and inventory are adequate for site		
1.3. Checks expiry dates of tests and accessories		
1.4. Ensures test and supply inventory is managed and records maintained		
2. Workplace safety		
2.1. Site design is fit for purpose		
2.2. Privacy aspects are adequate		
2.3. Understands site workflow		
2.4. Hand washing / sanitising between clients		
2.5. No eating, drinking, smoking permitted on site		
2.6. Personal protective equipment		
2.7. Workplace (surface and waste) decontamination procedures		
2.8. Disinfectant management/preparation procedures		
2.9. Accident/incident reporting		
2.10. Site emergency procedures (fire, evacuation)		
2.11. Waste disposal procedures (for clinical waste)		
3. Worker/student consultation		
3.1 Welcomes individual		
3.2 Introduces self and designation		
3.3 Checks correct client information		
4. Communication		
4.1 Communicates effectively		
4.2 Uses pleasant and respectful manner, uses language appropriate to client's level of understanding, uses open body language		
5. Professional conduct		
5.1 Understands and operates within the professional conduct of the responsible service		
5.2 Maintains professional boundaries and does not disclose personal information - maintains client confidentiality		
5.3 Maintains a professional and friendly demeanour		
6. Immediate management plan – performance of test		
6.1 Offers rapid antigen test		
6.2 Validates test overall result		
6.3 Completes Result Worksheet		
6.4 Arranges ongoing management – where applicable		

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING (FOR INDUSTRY)

INDICATIVE PROCESS – UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A HEALTH PRACTITIONER

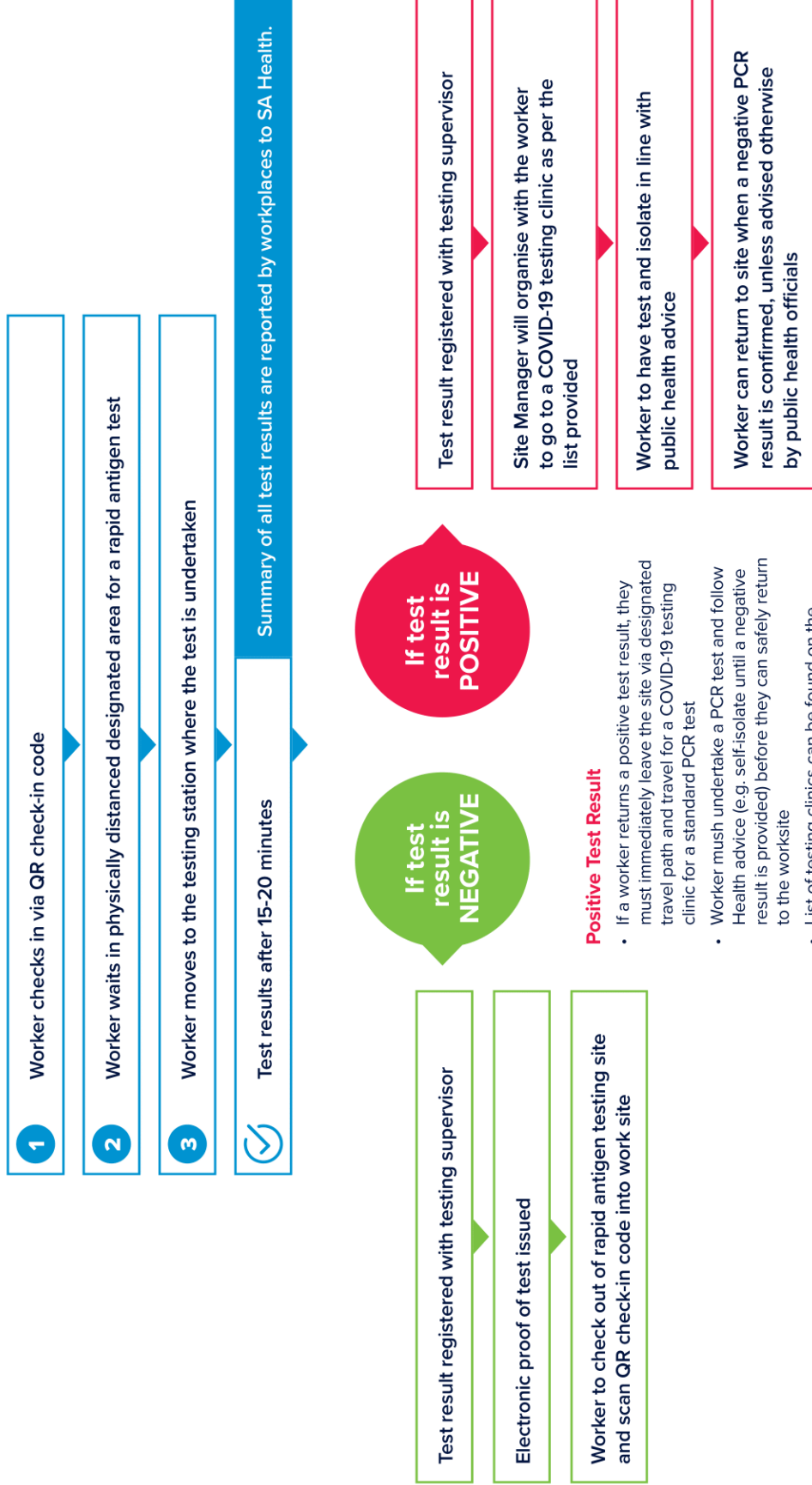


If you have ANY symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of taste or loss of smell), please travel from your home to a COVID-19 testing clinic for a PCR test and self-isolate until a negative result is provided



Government
of South Australia

SA Health



Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing and Screening in Workplaces

Information for employers

Benefits of rapid testing

Rapid antigen tests are important screening tools to help you protect your employees. Not everyone who has COVID-19 will show symptoms. Studies suggest that people without symptoms may still cause COVID-19 transmission in a significant number of cases. Vaccinated individuals can still contract COVID-19 and pass it on to others. You can help reduce the risk of outbreaks by regularly testing and screening your employees. Regular rapid antigen tests provide an extra layer of defence against the spread of the virus, along with COVID-safe behaviours such as frequent handwashing, physical distancing, wearing a mask and vaccination.

SA Health is supporting industry partners to implement rapid antigen screening for use as part of workplace screening initiatives. Rapid antigen tests are quick, easy and safe. They provide results in 15 to 20 minutes.

Rapid antigen test kit access and conditions

The use of rapid antigen tests as a screening tool is another layer of protection. It is not a substitute for other public health measures, and should not be used in symptomatic individuals unless public health advice states otherwise.

Other public health measures continue to be vital to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and these include mask wearing, hand hygiene, getting tested if you have any symptoms, physical distancing, proper ventilation and getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Employers can implement rapid antigen screening under the supervision of a health professional for their workforce with approval from the Chief Public Health Officer and may engage a third-party provider to manage this process. SA Health has established guidance for workplaces conducting rapid antigen screening. Industry partners who provide rapid antigen testing for workers need to:

- procure rapid antigen test kits that are Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) approved, and in line with any guidance from SA Health
- screen employees according to the guidance set by the TGA and in line with SA Health guidelines
- collect and report on usage as requested by SA Health.

Information collected from sites will be used to monitor and improve the rapid antigen screening process.

When a person has a standard COVID-19 PCR test at a clinic, unlike rapid antigen screening, they must self-isolate (home quarantine) until they receive a negative result or until advised by SA Health. As the initial rollout progresses, the South Australian Government will continue to provide guidance to support industry in implementing rapid antigen screening.

Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing and Screening - Information for employees

Why rapid antigen testing is being implemented in your workplace

Your employer has implemented a regular workplace screening initiative to protect you, your family, your colleagues and customers.

Screening employees at least twice a week can help to quickly identify and isolate those who have COVID-19, especially as those undertaking rapid antigen testing are those who don't have any symptoms and would not otherwise be undertaking COVID-19 testing.

Early identification helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in your workplace and in your community. Rapid antigen tests detect proteins from the virus that causes COVID-19. They're quick and easy to use. Results are provided in 15 to 20 minutes.

If you've been vaccinated, you should still take part in your workplace screening initiative as it is still possible for vaccinated individuals to contract COVID-19 and pass it on. The vaccines are safe and effective and can significantly reduce your chance of spreading the virus to those around you.

How is rapid antigen testing different to other testing?

There are two kinds of tests, **diagnostic** and **screening** tests. Rapid antigen tests are a **screening test** that are used to potentially identify positive cases earlier to help reduce the spread of the virus and prevent outbreaks.

When used regularly, rapid antigen tests may help identify individuals who may be infectious early on. Individuals can be pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic but still carry the virus and may transmit it to others.

A standard test such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, is a **diagnostic test**, and can confirm if someone has COVID-19, with results available in 24 to 48 hours.

These tests take a deep nasal sample and throat sample and are tested in laboratories.

A positive rapid antigen test doesn't mean you necessarily have COVID-19, it means you need to get a standard (PCR) test straight away.

What is the accuracy rate of Rapid Antigen Tests?

Rapid antigen tests will detect most cases of COVID-19, but they are not sensitive enough to be a 'rule out' test as they may miss some cases of COVID-19.

A negative test does not completely exclude COVID-19, and you should have a PCR test if you develop symptoms or are identified as a close or casual contact of someone who has COVID-19. This is even if you have recently returned a negative rapid antigen test.

If you get a positive test result

If you get a positive rapid antigen test result, you must immediately get a standard test (called a PCR test) at a SA testing site to confirm the result of your screening test.

Rapid antigen tests will detect most cases of COVID-19 but are not as accurate as a PCR test.

Isolate until you get a negative result from SA Health. Isolating immediately can help break chains of transmission and limit the spread of COVID-19 at your workplace.

You must also report the positive rapid antigen test result as part of your workplaces usual COVID-19 rapid antigen testing reporting processes.

If you get a negative test result

Continue to follow the latest health advice and restrictions in your area. If you develop any symptoms, even if mild, you must immediately get a standard COVID-19 test (PCR test) and isolate until you get a negative result from SA Health.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or are a contact of someone with COVID-19

Do not undertake a rapid antigen test and do not attend the work site. You must immediately get a standard COVID-19 (PCR) test at any COVID-19 testing clinic in SA and isolate, including from your household members, and follow the advice given by SA Health. The only way to rule out COVID-19 is to have a PCR test, even if you have only mild symptoms.

Is personal data collected?

Any testing data collected will only be used to help SA Health make public health decisions. None of your personal health data is used without your consent.

Fact Sheet: Information for workers on their Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) result

It is critical that SA maintains high rates of COVID-19 testing to contain the spread of the virus, and quickly identify any community transmission. The implementation of rapid antigen testing is an extra layer of protection to keep our community safe, and enable our workplaces, industries and schools to continue to operate with as little disruption as possible.

Rapid antigen tests for workers who do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, are being performed at work sites with results available within 15-20 minutes. It is recommended that tests be undertaken for individuals two to three times a week.

These are screening tests only, and if a test is negative and you have symptoms you must still present to a testing site for a PCR test. In the presence of symptoms a negative PCR test – not a rapid antigen test – is the only way to know that an individual does not have COVID-19.

If your result is **NEGATIVE**

- register your test result with the testing supervisor; and then check in via the usual QR code to your work site.

If your result is **POSITIVE**

- register your test result with the testing supervisor
- arrangements will be made for you to have an urgent PCR test at a local COVID-19 testing clinic
- isolate until you receive a negative PCR result

Remember, if you have symptoms of COVID-19, you must not attend work. You must not undertake a rapid antigen test. You will need a PCR test from a COVID-19 testing site in SA.

Testing helps SA Health contain potential spread by identifying any positive cases early. Thank you for your support.

For further information on COVID-19, visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au or call the SA COVID-19 Information Line on **1800 253 787**.