



Get tested

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) are the easiest way to test for COVID-19. They are quick and effective, especially when you have symptoms.

Free rapid antigen test kits from participating local councils are available for all Victorians. You can receive up to 2 packs of 5 RATs per person and up to 2 packs per household member. You are not required to have a Medicare card.

Free RATs are also available at select community health organisations and private pathology centres. Visit [Get a COVID test](#) for more information.

You should take a RAT:

- if you have COVID-19 symptoms, even if they're very mild
- if you have been [in contact with someone who has COVID-19](#)
- before visiting a hospital, aged care facility, or disability care facility
- before visiting elderly people, people with disability or people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

If you need a [PCR test](#), you will need to visit a [GP respiratory clinic](#) or have a GP referral to a private pathology provider. A GP will decide if you need a PCR test based on your symptoms and medical conditions. You may need to pay for your PCR test.

See a GP or GP respiratory clinic:

- if you are at high risk of falling very sick with COVID
- if you are eligible for COVID medicines
- if you are concerned about your symptoms.

Which test should I take?

Situation	What should I do?
I have COVID-19 symptoms but have tested negative on a RAT	<p>You should see a GP or a GP respiratory clinic to get a referral for a PCR test.</p> <p>Especially if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are aged 70 and over• have a weakened immune system• have a disability• are 30 and above and identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
I have symptoms and have tested positive on a rapid antigen test	<p>You have COVID-19. You should stay at home and report your result.</p>

I need to get a test for a medical procedure	Follow the instructions given to you by your GP or surgeon.
I have recently been in isolation with COVID-19	<p>You should stay at home for at least 5 days and until you no longer have symptoms.</p> <p>You should take a rapid antigen test (RAT) before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• attending a workplace• before visiting a hospital, aged care facility, or disability care facility• before visiting elderly people, people with disability or people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness. <p>If you took COVID antiviral medicine and test positive again, this could be due to 'treatment rebound'. You should continue to stay at home and avoid sensitive settings or people at higher risk of severe illness until you test negative.</p>
I am about to go overseas	Pre-departure international travel tests are only available at private pathology centres. Fees may apply.

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