



What is a Rapid Antigen Test?

- This is an easy-to-use test that looks for evidence of the COVID-19 virus.
- Results are available in 15 minutes and **do not** need to be confirmed by a PCR test.
- Rapid Antigen Tests can be used at home.
For information, please refer to the following:
 - instructions provided inside the test.
 - [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBBd4JRWtsg) on how to use rapid antigen tests <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBBd4JRWtsg>

Who Should Use a Rapid Antigen Screening Test?

- Rapid antigen tests can be used by people experiencing COVID-19 symptoms including one of:
 - fever and/or chills;
 - cough;
 - shortness of breath;
 - decrease or loss of taste or smell; OR
 - **Two or more of:**
 - runny nose/nasal congestion
 - headache
 - extreme fatigue
 - sore throat
 - muscle aches/joint pain
 - gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. vomiting or diarrhea)
- While one-off testing (e.g. before a social gathering) by people not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and without a known exposure is generally not recommended, if you choose to use a rapid antigen test in this way complete it as close to the event as possible (e.g. ideally within a few hours of the event) and know that a negative result could be a false negative.
- Close contacts should self-isolate in accordance with guidance.

What Does My Test Result Mean?

Positive Rapid Antigen Test Result

- It is highly likely that you have COVID-19.
- Self-isolate immediately:
- For at least 5 days (if fully vaccinated or under 12 years old) or 10 days (if not fully vaccinated or immunocompromised) from when your symptoms started and until you have no fever and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms), whichever is longer.
- If you live, work, attend, or volunteer in a highest risk setting¹, let them know that you had a positive result and follow the direction you are given.
- Household members (including anyone fully vaccinated) must self-isolate while you are self-isolating.
- Notify people that you have come into **close** contact with starting 48 hours before your symptoms developed and until you began to self-isolate.
- If you are concerned about your symptoms, contact your health care provider or Telehealth (1-866-797-0000).

Negative Rapid Antigen Test Result

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, and your test is negative, you may still have COVID-19.
- Use another rapid antigen test 24-48 hours after your first negative test. If it is negative you most likely do not have COVID-19. Self-isolate until your symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms).

¹ Highest risk settings include hospitals (including complex continuing care facilities and paramedic services) and congregate living settings, including Long-Term Care, retirement homes, First Nation elder care lodges, group homes, shelters, hospices and correctional institutions.

To learn more about public access to rapid antigen tests, visit ontario.ca/rapidtest