

# National Disability Services

## Rapid Antigen Tests information for Disability Providers

**June 2022**

This document identifies Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) guidance, resources and recommendations shared by disability providers. It includes relevant government links.

A worker RAT/PCR test result record has also been included to assist providers collect this information for worker support, contact assessment and leave planning.

### **Approved RAT supplies**

All RATs purchased by providers or workers must comply with Australian Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) approvals. Providers are recommended to source through suppliers committed to these regulations.

The [TGA approved COVID-19 rapid antigen tests \(RATs\)](#) site includes visual identification of all RAT supplies approved for use in Australia.

Asymptomatic close contacts do not need to test if they have previously been COVID-19 positive and it is 12 weeks or less since they completed isolation.

The TGA list of approved RATs includes the sensitivity ratings and can be used to support supply and purchasing decisions. The sensitivity rating of Positive Percent Agreement (PPA) compares the people testing positive with the RAT self-test to those testing positive using a more sensitive PCR test.

- **Acceptable sensitivity** - clinical sensitivity greater than 80% PPA
- **High sensitivity** - clinical sensitivity greater than 90% PPA
- **Very high sensitivity** - clinical sensitivity greater than 95% PPA

## RAT stock estimates for worker needs

The estimate of stock to have readily available for workers is a baseline only and suggested as a result of provider discussion of needs in Victoria and consideration of recent residential aged care and state and territory recommendations. Providers are advised to check with local public health advisors specific-setting guidance.

Any workers who are identified as a workplace, close or other identified contact need to follow their state or territory guidance for testing and isolation.

### RAT stock estimate

The suggested RAT supply to have available, in the table below, can be used by organisations or as a recommendation for workers or individuals with a disability, their family or authorised supports.

**Outbreaks:** The suggested RAT stock is based on state and territory RA testing recommendations as of May 2022. Requirements vary, depending on the individual and if they will be working in or attending a sensitive or disability setting. Refer to the state and territory links at the end of guidance.

**Surveillance:** Use for testing when an individual is asymptomatic in an outbreak setting or during times of high-risk community transmission.

<b>Outbreak supply</b>	<b>Surveillance use</b>	<b>Residents or Workers (24 -72hours between tests) Refer state/territory guide.</b>	<b>Stock storage timeframe</b>
5 to 7 RATs	2 or 3 RATs	X Worker/week	Sufficient for 1 month supply or 14 days min if supplies readily available in your area.
3 to 5 RATs	3 RATs	X Residents of disability accommodation, in home supports or community or	Sufficient for 1 month supply or 14 days min if

		day service settings x week	supplies readily available in your area.
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## **Expiry considerations:**

- Most RATs remain effective for 6 months from development
- Check expiry dates especially with any RATs offered at discounted rates

Depending on your state or territory ensuring a baseline of tests may involve one of the following options and the source of supply and costs recovery may change depending on outbreak needs, NDIA and State or Territory Government supports.

- Organisation organises and holds supply of the baseline stock and distributes to workers
- Workers are advised to hold for personal use the recommended baseline as in home stock.

## **RAT storage and transport requirements**

The guidance below was sourced from the Victorian Government Department of Health in response to sector questions and concerns.

All RATs need to be stored according to manufacturer's requirements to remain viable for use.

### **Requirements for transport**

- Do not expose to elements especially direct sunlight
- Do not expose to excessive heat for example distribution centres or light vehicle transport
- Insulated containers that can meet the storage requirements identified above may be required for outreach workers.

### **Recording worker RAT and PCR results**

A template for organisational recording of worker results to support, backfill and contact assessment. All workers need to be informed this does not replace state or territory RAT result reporting and is intended to simplify internal monitoring only.

The Microsoft forms template offered were originally developed and remains in use by Melba Support Services, a day and accommodation service provider in Victoria. This has been shared with NDS for broader sector adaption and use to record worker COVID-19 test results.

It can be used with any IT systems that have Microsoft Office 365. Microsoft Forms

- The template enables individual organisations to create a duplicate version that can be modified to suit specific state/territory and organisation needs. When adaption to local needs is completed, it can be shared from a specific management or HR individual or team email to all workers and the results will remain confidential with the team responsible for COVID tests result follow up.
- The benefit of using this reporting format is that an individual or team responsible can generate an excel spreadsheet with current data identifying the status of worker test results as often as needed and filter as needed for further reporting and support.

## Instructions

### To access this template for use:

- Open and download a duplicate [NDS Template for Worker COVID test result recording](#)
- Link will open automatically within Microsoft forms with the duplicate option at the top of the form. Duplicate version is your template only
- Note: There is no possibility of NDS, or anyone else using this template, seeing your data. The form is created in your system and all data added is confidential to your organisation. Rename and save into organisational system for easy identification
- Settings option (available in top righthand corner of page three dots) enables a user to include:
- Automatically generated email to the worker to indicate the submission is successful
- Automatic email to alert team/individual responsible for oversight of the response that a PCR or RAT result record has been submitted.

## Sharing reporting record with workers

Team/ individual responsible for distribution of the reporting record can elect to use one of the following options when they click on **Share tab**, first option - sending and collecting response. This is at the top of the page. Drop down arrow allows for the response restrictions within organisation

- Copy link icon (paperclip image) into a relevant internal organisation web page for workers
- Copy the QR code link into a relevant internal organisation web page for workers
- Send an email with a copy of the URL to all workers for access.

Workers will be able to open a link to the blank form, available on PC or phone, and simply enter the required data for submission which automatically returns the information to the team or individual responsible.

## Accessing responses

Team /individual who distribute the form and are responsible for the reporting record will be able to open original survey form at any time to check responses and carry out actions as needed.

Steps to access and download spreadsheet of responses:

- Open organisation template form
- Click on responses tab
- Look for excel spreadsheet icon and download for collated responses.

## Short Microsoft forms tutorials – 2-3 minutes in length each

[Microsoft Forms | Full Tutorial - Bing video](#)

[Microsoft Forms - Share your Survey Link - Bing video](#)

[Microsoft Forms - View your Survey Responses - Bing video](#)

## RAT Resources

- [TGA Home use tests for COVID-19 guidance](#)
- [Testing for COVID-19 | Australian Government Department of Health](#)
- [How to do a rapid antigen test from your nose - Easy Read Australian Government Department of Health](#)
- [How to do a rapid antigen test with your saliva – Easy Read | Australian Government Department of Health](#)
- [Anyone using a RAT saliva test is recommended to carry this out 30 minutes or more from eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum or cleaning their teeth.](#)

## Commonwealth, State and Territory RAT testing weblinks

### Reporting a positive RAT

All states and territories require individuals to report a positive RAT result to their relevant Health Department. This ensures available supports can be provided as needed to the individual throughout their COVID illness and recovery.

This reporting is in addition to any disability service provider notifications to state or territory government, NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and other authorities such as WorkSafe.

The links below identify the current individual RAT reporting requirements for each state and territory.

**Australian Government:** COVID-19 rapid antigen self-tests that are approved in Australia | Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

<https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-rapid-antigen-self-tests-are-approved-australia>

**ACT:** [Rapid antigen test \(RAT\) - positive result registration form - COVID-19](#)

**NSW:** [Rapid antigen tests for COVID-19](#)

**NT:** [Testing positive COVID-19 first steps](#)

**QLD:** [Exposed to COVID-19 testing and contacts](#)

**SA:** [Rapid antigen testing \(RAT\) for COVID-19 | SA Health](#)

**TAS:** [Rapid antigen tests \(RATs\) | Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

**VIC:** [Rapid antigen tests | Coronavirus Victoria](#)

**WA:** [COVID-19 testing](#)