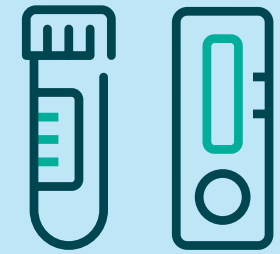


COVID-19 testing explained

Version 1.2 | 29 April 2022



There are two ways to get tested for COVID-19 in Tasmania:

Rapid antigen testing (RAT) is self-administered and involves taking a nasal or throat swab and placing the sample into an indicator. Results are ready quickly (10-20 minutes). You can do this test yourself.

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is the test you get if you attend a testing clinic. The test sample (a throat and nose swab) is taken by a health care professional and sent to a lab for analysis. You will generally receive a result within 24-48 hours.

Note: you are legally required to notify a positive test for COVID-19, this will ensure you can access care at home and financial assistance (if eligible).



Use a RAT if you have cold or flu-like symptoms, are a close contact or have been directed to by Public Health.

Go to a testing clinic for a PCR test if you are at risk of severe disease, cannot access a RAT, are unable to use one or are directed to by Public Health.

If you have had COVID-19 you do not need to get tested for 12 weeks after your release from isolation.



People with cold and flu-like symptoms, close contacts and those directed by Public Health are eligible to get a free RAT kit.

You need to register online to get a RAT kit, go to coronavirus.tas.gov.au/covidtests.



If you get a positive test result for COVID-19 you are a confirmed case, and you must isolate for at least 7 days.

If you used a RAT you are required to notify your result via the online form: coronavirus.tas.gov.au/positive-result

If it has been 12 weeks since the date you were released from isolation and you test positive to COVID-19 on a rapid antigen test (RAT), you need to have a PCR test to confirm if you have a new infection of COVID-19.