



RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

Frequently Asked Questions

Can the rapid tests be performed by staff at my practice?

Yes but the testing needs to be performed under the supervision of the registered dental practitioner. Ultimately it is the responsibility still of the registered practitioner.

Can I take rapid tests for every patient?

At present the rapid tests are only to be used for the purpose of testing staff and patients requiring urgent care. It is also dependant on the risk factors in the local areas, please check status of rapid testing from the local health department e.g NSW Health.

What do I need to document for taking the swab?

The name of the person being tested / date / swab batch number / start time / finish time / result / person performing the test. There also needs to be a way to store these records.

Who do I report positive cases to?

Positive cases need to be reported right away as per the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia patient screening policy, please refer to your local health department for the correct number to report the case to.

Can I test myself?

If you are the registered dental practitioner then you can perform your own test inline with your practice policy. You must still record your result.

If we get a positive test should we take a second test just to make sure?

No you must send the person immediately for a PCR test and notify the local authority immediately of the positive test result. They may also give further advise on contact tracing.



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If I get an invalid result do I retest?

Yes you need to retest but you may need to review the process and ensure you're following the instructions for use. These all still need to be recorded.

Are the rapid tests covered by medicare or private health?

At this stage no, the cost of the tests are at the discretion of the dental practice as to whether they charge for this service or not.

Do I need to provide a consent form?

Yes similar to other consent forms for treatment a consent for rapid antigen tests also need to be filled in and approved by the patient/staff member.

Can staff take the tests home and take before coming to the workplace?

The current supply of Rapid tests for home testing is illegal.

Where is it recommended to perform the tests in the practice?

This is a risk based approach and individual to each practice, if there is the ability to have a testing area completely separate from the practice then this may be a consideration as if there is a positive test and it was performed inside the practice where all the staff for example where then it's likely the practice would be declared a hot spot and the various steps such as closure and staff PCR testing and isolation would need to be undertaken.