

Rapid antigen testing information sheet for parents

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria is working with the Department of Health to use at-home rapid antigen testing of unvaccinated primary close contacts (PCCs) to safely enable an earlier return to school. This will enable unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students to return to school after a seven-day quarantine, instead of a 14-day quarantine, by participating in this program.

When to do a rapid antigen test

Your child (who is unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated) has been identified as a potential primary close contact (PCC) of a confirmed COVID-19 case. You may have received or still be waiting for advice from the Department of Health to confirm your quarantine period.

The at-home rapid antigen testing program is for:

- students who are primary close contacts – **it is not for household primary close contacts (who live in the same household as a person with COVID-19).**
- unvaccinated and partially vaccinated primary close contacts only. Vaccinated primary close contacts are already able to leave isolation after seven days and a negative day six PCR test.
- the purpose of attending the school the student is enrolled at only. Students cannot attend education activities offsite. Students must otherwise stay at home for their period of self-quarantine.

If you want to take part in the at-home rapid antigen testing program

The at-home rapid antigen testing program is an opt-in program. Please read this information about rapid antigen testing to help you decide whether your child should participate.

By reading this information and then following these steps you are consenting to participate in the program:

- Your child must quarantine at home for seven days from the date on which the close contact occurred (day 0).
- On day six of quarantine, your child must get a standard (PCR) test at your local [COVID-19 testing site](#). If the PCR test is negative, provide the results to your child's school.
- Your child can then return to school from day eight with a 'test to stay'.
- Your child must complete a rapid antigen test at home on school days between days 8 and 14 each morning.
- You must send the test result to your school using the [e-form](#) provided each day. This must be sent prior to your child attending school and no later than 8:30am.
- On day 13 of quarantine, your child must get a standard (PCR) test at your local [COVID-19 testing site](#). If the test is negative, provide the results to your child's school.
- Then, your child can return to school on day 15, after completing 14 days of quarantine.

If you choose not to take part in the rapid antigen testing program

Your child must quarantine at home for 14 days.

On day 13 of quarantine, your child must get a standard (PCR) test at your local [COVID-19 testing site](#). If the test is negative, provide the results to your child's school.

Then, your child can return to school on day 15, after completing 14 days of quarantine.

If your child has been fully vaccinated, they do not need to participate in the rapid antigen testing program

Vaccinated students must quarantine at home for seven days.

On day six of quarantine, your child must get a standard (PCR) test at your local [COVID-19 testing site](#). If the test is negative, provide the results to your child's school.

Your child can return to school on day eight.

How to perform a rapid antigen test on your child

There are different types of rapid antigen self-tests that can be used at home. Your school has provided you with **Roche rapid antigen self-tests**. Follow [the instructions](#) in your kit, as they may differ from other types of tests.

Read the [full instructions](#) included in your kit before starting the test.

Watch the video: [Test yourself for COVID-19 with our rapid antigen self-test](#).

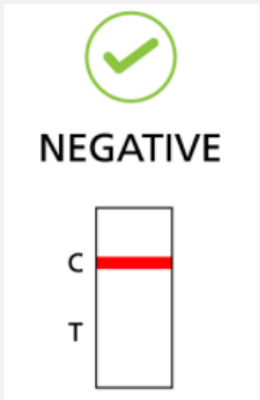

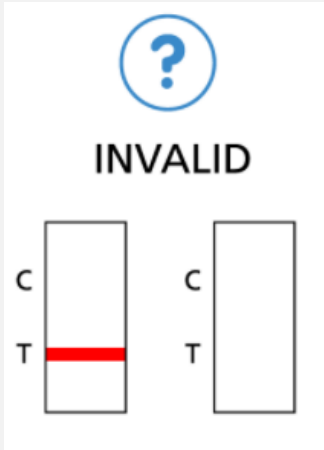
Children who are 12-17 years old who want to do the test themselves should be supervised to ensure they correctly follow the steps. Children under 12 will need a parent or guardian to perform the test on them.

Interpreting your child's rapid antigen test result

If your child's result is negative, it will appear as a single red line, next to the C on the test. It means that it is unlikely your child has COVID-19, especially if they have no symptoms. If your child does not have symptoms, they do not need to get a standard (PCR) test. If your child has symptoms, they must get a standard PCR test to be sure.

If your child's result is positive, it will appear as two red lines, next to the C and T on the test. It means that it is likely your child has COVID-19. Your child should isolate and get a standard (PCR) test immediately. When you get the standard (PCR) test, tell the testing site about your child's positive rapid antigen test

If your child's result is invalid, it will appear as either a single red line next to the T on the test, or no lines at all. It means that you have to repeat the test. If you get another invalid result your child needs to get a standard (PCR) test. If the standard (PCR) test is positive, follow the positive result instructions above. If the standard (PCR) test is negative, follow the negative result instructions above.

How your child's result will appear	What it means	What to do next
	<p>It is unlikely your child has COVID-19, especially if they have no symptoms.</p>	<p>Does your child have symptoms?</p> <p>Yes: your child must get a standard (PCR) test to be sure.</p> <p>No: your child does not need to get a standard (PCR) test.</p>
	<p>It is likely your child has COVID-19.</p>	<p>Your child should isolate immediately.</p> <p>Your child must get a standard (PCR) test immediately.</p> <p>Tell the testing site about your child's positive rapid antigen test.</p>
	<p>No result</p> <p>The test has not worked. You need to repeat the test.</p>	<p>Repeat the test</p> <p>Invalid again? Get a standard (PCR) test.</p> <p>Positive: follow the positive result instructions.</p> <p>Negative: follow the negative result instructions.</p>

If your child gets a positive result on a rapid antigen test

A positive result on a rapid antigen test means it's likely your child has COVID-19, especially if they have symptoms.

If your child gets a positive result, they must follow these steps:

- Isolate at home immediately. Do not leave home unless for COVID testing or to seek medical care.
- Get a standard (PCR) test to confirm the result as soon as possible at a [testing site](#) or through your healthcare provider.
- Stay isolated until they get their standard (PCR) test result.
- You must report your child's positive rapid antigen test result to your school using the [e-form](#) provided.
- You can tell other household members, or other people you may have seen outside the home about your child's positive rapid antigen test result, but they don't need to take action until your child's standard (PCR) test confirms they have COVID-19.

After your child's follow-up standard (PCR) test, they must follow these steps.

- If your child gets a **positive result** from the standard (PCR) test, then they have COVID-19. If your child has COVID-19, see [what to do](#).
- If your child gets a **negative result** from the standard (PCR) test, they can leave isolation and return to school. Your child must continue to have at home rapid antigen tests every school day until 14 days after the original exposure date.

Please contact your school directly when you have received the results from your child's standard (PCR) result.

If your child gets a negative result on a rapid antigen test

A negative result on a rapid antigen test means it's less likely your child has COVID-19. Only a standard (PCR) test can tell more accurately so if your child has COVID-19 symptoms, they must isolate and get a standard (PCR) test.

You must report your child's negative rapid antigen test result to your school using the [e-form](#) provided prior to your child attending school and no later than 8:30am.

If your child gets an invalid result on a rapid antigen test

The test has not worked. You may have collected your nasal swab incorrectly or the test may have some manufacturing defects, so you will need to do another test.

Please refer to the instructions or call the Department of Education and Training COVID-19 hotline (1800 338 663) if you have questions about how to complete the test.

If you get an invalid result on the second rapid antigen test, your child must get a standard (PCR) test and cannot return to school until they have returned a negative PCR test result. You must continue to complete rapid antigen testing each morning prior to school on weekdays.

Reporting your child's rapid antigen test result

You must report your child's rapid antigen test result to their school every school day morning between days 8 and 14, no matter what the result.

Report your child's test results to your school using the [e-form](#) provided on school days between days 8 and 14 each morning and prior to your child attending school (no later than 8.30am).

If you send your child to school without completing a rapid antigen test or reporting the result to your school, you will be contacted to immediately collect your child to perform a rapid antigen test.

Your child will not be able to attend school after their first seven days of isolation if they are not participating in the rapid antigen test program and they will need to stay in quarantine for 14 days.

If you need help to perform the test

Contact the Department of Education and Training's COVID-19 hotline (1800 338 663) for general advice and support about at-home rapid antigen testing.

If you're having difficulty performing the test on your child, it might help to:

- talk them through the steps
- encourage them to remain calm
- get another person to help you.

Consent

At-home rapid antigen testing

The at-home rapid antigen testing program is an opt-in program for unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated students who are PCCs.

Your school will provide you with rapid antigen test kits. You do not need to buy test kits.

You have been provided information about rapid antigen testing to help you decide whether your child should participate in this program. By participating in this program, you are consenting for your child to attend school after completing seven days of quarantine, conditional on getting a standard PCR test on day six of quarantine and returning a negative result, and completing a rapid antigen test at home on each school day between days 8 and 14. To attend school you must return a negative test result each day before arriving at school, and report that result no later than 8:30am.

Privacy

You need to complete an online form. This form will collect details about your child and their test results as well as your contact details as their parent/carer.

Schools will use this information to:

- implement rapid antigen testing in the best ways possible
- safely oversee implementation of the rapid antigen testing program
- enable students to return to school earlier

- make sure students follow their quarantine requirements
- demonstrate maintenance of a system to collect, hold and record necessary information
- learn about how children and families find using the rapid antigen testing in their homes.

The information will be received and managed by the school leadership team, plus any other staff required to assist in managing this process.

Catholic Education Commission of Victoria staff supporting schools and coordinating the program will also have access to this information. This information may be used to support monitoring and evaluation of the rapid antigen testing program.

Information may be provided to the Department of Health to assist with contact tracing.

The information may also be reported to other Victorian government bodies or Parliament. Your child's details and your details will be anonymous and confidential. The information will be given to the government or Parliament as anonymous and grouped information only, as part of supporting and providing information on the Victorian government's response to COVID-19. Your information will be stored in a secure system. This will be managed by your child's school. Any hardcopies will be stored in a secure location at the school.

For more information about how your information is handled in this process, you can refer to the data collection statement.

For more information regarding your child's school's handling of personal information, please read the school's Privacy Policy.

Further information

Contact the Department of Education's COVID-19 hotline (1800 338 663) if you have questions about how rapid antigen testing can support your child's early return to school, including general advice and support about how to complete at home testing.

Visit [Rapid antigen self-tests](#) on the coronavirus.vic.gov website for more information about self-testing at home.

Watch the video: [Test yourself for COVID-19 with our rapid antigen self-test](#).

Read [the Roche rapid antigen test instructions](#).