

# Rapid antigen test guidance – overnights and camps

## Purpose

The Victorian Government announced a suite of COVIDSafe measures on 22 January 2022 to make schools as safe as possible in Term 1, including surveillance testing for staff and students. As part of the COVIDSafe measures, it is recommended that primary and secondary school staff and students undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT) twice a week on school days and every school day for specialist school staff and students.

School staff and students may continue Rapid Antigen screening during camps or overnight excursions, particularly when scheduled for more than 3 days. Staff or students experiencing symptoms while attending a camp or overnight excursion may also need to be tested.

This document has been developed to provide school staff with some advice and information to:

- **Supervise** a student performing a rapid antigen test (student 12 years or older); or
- **Conduct** a rapid antigen test on a child/young person under the age of 12

This may be required in the event of a student displaying symptoms while away from home or where it is recommended by the relevant Local Public Health Unit or advised by the Department of Health.

This guidance includes the training requirements staff must complete prior to supervising or conducting RA tests on students.

Permission must be obtained from all parents/guardians prior to the camp to ensure consent is provided for testing to occur. Where consent is not obtained, arrangements should be made to return symptomatic students home as soon as possible.

## Preparation

Schools should ensure sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available at all times, either provided by the school or camp facility. It is recommended to pack PPE including:

- hand sanitiser,
- gloves, masks and
- N95/P2 respirators:
- gowns and face shields (Tier 3 PPE)

Additionally, the school should provide staff with:

- printed recordkeeping sheets and
- signage to mark isolation areas, and
- visual posters to support correct PPE donning and doffing, and mask wearing.

Students and staff should bring their RAT allocation (including instructions) to meet any planned screening or symptomatic testing. The school may also need to bring a small contingency of additional rapid antigen tests in case it is required. Tests should be stored and transported according to manufacturer instructions, particularly noting temperature requirements.

## PPE requirements

If a student is symptomatic, refer to guidance on management of suspected cases of COVID-19 in schools in the [School Operations Guide](#). Please also refer to the [guidance for the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) in education](#) on appropriate PPE.

- If the student is **symptomatic** Tier 3 PPE is required to be worn by the person **conducting** the test.
- If the staff member is **supervising** students over the age of 12 who are conducting their own test, Tier 1 PPE is sufficient.
- If the student is **not symptomatic and not a household-like close contact**, and the test is being conducted for screening purposes, Tier 1 PPE is sufficient, with the use of gloves.

## Training requirements for staff conducting tests on students

All staff **must** complete the following training prior to conducting a test on a student:

- Review the Department of Health dedicated page for [rapid antigen testing in schools](#), and watch the [video](#) on how to conduct a test on someone under the age of 12. This video has been translated into 33 languages. Instructions in this video support nasal rapid antigen testing and is not for oral rapid antigen tests. Additionally, the TGA has provided these instructions for [nasal rapid antigen tests](#), to go with the [video found on the website](#).
- Refer to the [guidance for staff on the use of PPE in education settings](#), to follow the PPE requirements outlined above.
- Watch the [PPE Donning and Doffing video](#) provided by the Department of Education and Training.



**Swabbing/sampling collection should always be conducted in a well-ventilated area, and away from other students or staff. If available, air purifiers should be set on the highest possible setting.**

## Disposal of rapid antigen tests, PPE and other waste

**Used tests, PPE, and any other clinical waste are disposed of in** a separate plastic bag which is then sealed before going into a general waste bin **away from students and other staff**, or a clinical waste bin if available. Guidance about safe disposal of tests is available here:

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