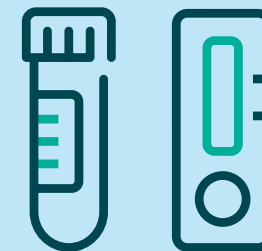


# COVID-19 testing explained

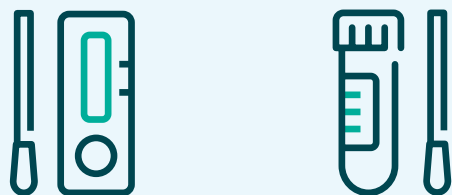


## There are two ways to get tested for COVID-19 in Tasmania:

**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 should notify a positive test** for COVID-19, this will ensure you can access care at home and antiviral medicine (if eligible).



**Use a RAT** if you have cold or flu-like symptoms or are a close contact and need to be tested.

**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 a health practitioner.

If you have had COVID-19 you do not need to get tested for five weeks after you tested positive.



**People with cold and flu-like symptoms** and close contacts 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](https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/covidtests).

You need to fill in a request for each person in your household, or alternatively call the Public Health Hotline for assistance.



**If you test positive for COVID-19** you are a confirmed case, and you should stay home until symptoms resolve. If you need to leave home you should wear a face mask and avoid high risk settings for 7 days.

If you used a RAT you should notify your result via the online form: [coronavirus.tas.gov.au/positive-result](https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/positive-result).