

MATERNITY COVID-19 testing requirements

Rapid Antigen Testing

To enable us to best care for you, maternity patients and birth partners will be required to undertake regular rapid antigen tests (RAT).

Please refer to the below table for various scenarios.

Please take a photo of your negative RAT result and bring the RAT in a ziplock bag with you to the hospital. You will not be granted entry without proof of the negative test.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MATERNITY PATIENT & BIRTH PARTNER (if attending)

Planned (routine) visit	Conduct RAT at home on the day of your appointment from 36-weeks onwards
Unplanned visit/emergency	A RAT will be conducted upon entry to the hospital
Day of admission	Conduct RAT at home within three hours of your arrival to the hospital

How to access RAT?

At your 34-week appointment, your obstetrician will complete a 'Patient RAT Request Form' which will allow you to collect five RAT kits from any St John of God Health Care (SJGHC) site.

These kits are for your use only.

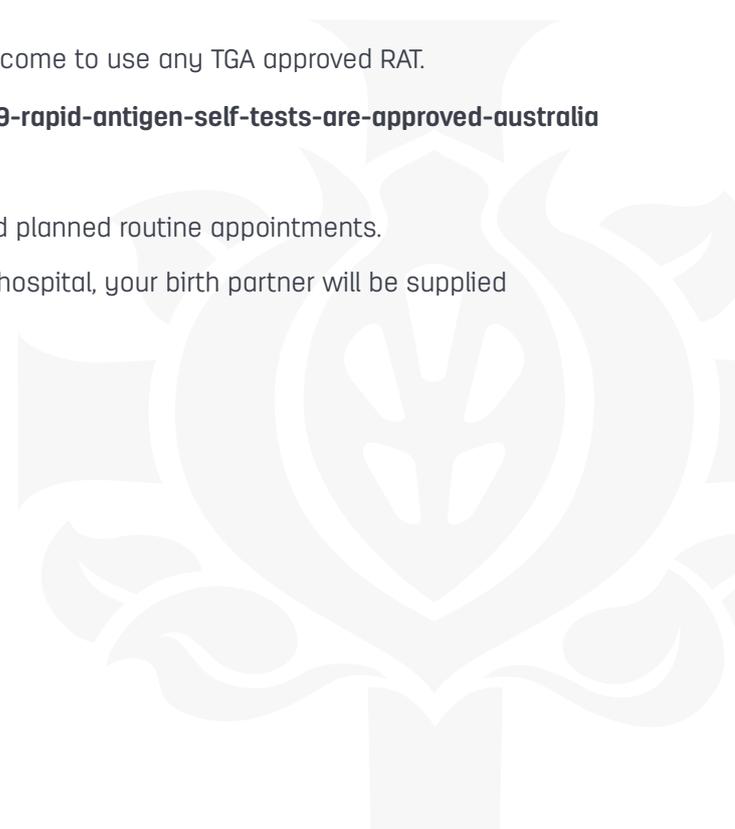
If you are unable to pick up a RAT from a SJGHC site, you are welcome to use any TGA approved RAT.

To access a list of approved RATs, please visit tga.gov.au/covid-19-rapid-antigen-self-tests-are-approved-australia

Will you provide a RAT for my birth partner?

No, your birth partner will need to source their own RAT to attend planned routine appointments.

However, in the case of an unplanned or emergency visit to the hospital, your birth partner will be supplied a RAT on entry.



How to conduct a RAT

The below instructions illustrate the principles of a rapid antigen test. There are differences in instruction depending on the type of test kit that you are provided. **Please follow the instructions supplied with your RAT kit.**

- 1.** 

PERFORM SPECIMEN COLLECTION:
Please only use the collection method outlined in the instructions supplied with your RAT kit. Depending on the type of RAT kit you are provided, collection can be nasal only or nasal and throat.
- 2.**

Step 2 may not be required in some kits. Please follow the instructions supplied with your RAT kit.

Rotate the lid of extraction buffer bottle  → Add the correct number of drops from the extraction buffer into the tube as outlined in your RAT kit instructions 
- 3.**

Insert swab into the tube & rotate to mix  → Pinch the tube & remove the solution from the swab  → Install the nozzle onto the tube  → Add correct number of drops (based on your RAT kit instructions) of specimen to the test card 

 Leave swab in solution for 60 seconds

 Read results at 15-20 minutes

Results should NOT be read after 20 minutes.

Please take a photo of your test at 15-20 minutes and place the test in a ziplock bag to bring to your appointment.

RAT testing must be completed at no greater than 3 hours prior to the appointment.

If you are unable to complete a RAT test for any reason, please call your admitting area.

How to interpret your RAT

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	INVALID
<p>If two coloured bands appear within 15-20 minutes the result is positive.</p> <p>NOTE: No matter how faint the coloured band is in the T Zone the result should be considered positive.</p> 	<p>If one coloured band appears in the C Zone and NO coloured band appears in the T Zone within 15-20 minutes the test result is negative.</p> 	<p>If there is no coloured band in the C Zone within 15-20 minutes the test is invalid.</p> <p>Repeat the test with a new test device.</p> 

What happens if I test positive?

Please refer to the below table which outlines the process for RAT results.

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	INVALID
<p>DO NOT ATTEND YOUR APPOINTMENT.</p> <p>Isolate yourself and call us on 9438 9700 to discuss next steps.</p>	<p>YOU MAY ATTEND YOUR APPOINTMENT.</p> <p>Please bring a photo of the result AND the RAT in a ziplock bag with you to the hospital.</p>	<p>PLEASE REPEAT THE RAT using the spare test provided for an unplanned visit.</p> <p>If two invalid results are returned, please call your obstetrician and/or Birth Suite to discuss next steps.</p>

Please note: If your birthing partner tests positive, you **BOTH** must NOT attend your appointment.

Please inform your obstetrician to discuss next steps.