

CANCER CENTRE

COVID-19

testing requirements

Rapid Antigen Testing

To protect our hospital community, all patients are required to undertake a rapid antigen test (RAT) prior to arrival. 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.

PATIENTS

VISITORS

Planned (routine) visits	DAY OF YOUR ADMISSION Conduct RAT at home no more than three hours prior to your arrival to the hospital	VISITORS OF VULNERABLE PATIENTS IN HIGH-RISK SETTINGS: (Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department, Maternity & Theatres) Conduct RAT at home no more than three hours prior to your arrival to the hospital
Unplanned visits / emergencies	Conduct a RAT at home if possible. If not, a test will be conducted upon entry to the hospital	

Visitor restrictions may change based on levels of community transmission of COVID-19. For the latest visitor restrictions, please visit sjog.org.au/covid-visitors

How to access RAT?

You will be provided two RAT kits at your first hospital appointment (one RAT to be used prior to your next appointment and one spare RAT in case of an unplanned or emergency visit, or if you become symptomatic for COVID-19).

You will be provided an additional (1) RAT at each following appointment to ensure you are able to conduct a RAT at-home prior to attending the hospital. The testing kits are for your use only, visitors will be required to source their own testing kits. Please do not supply your kit to anyone else.

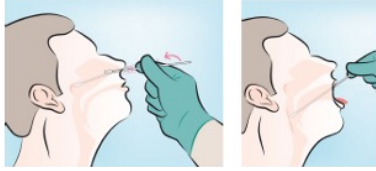
St John of God Healthcare at Home will also continue to provide home visiting support.

If one of our caregivers visits you at home, they will wear personal protective equipment and you will be asked to undertake further RAT screening prior to their visit. If this is required, RAT kits will be provided.

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.

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

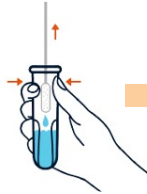


3.

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

If two coloured bands appear within 15-20 minutes the result is **positive**.

NOTE: No matter how faint the coloured band is in the T Zone the result should be considered positive.



NEGATIVE

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**.



INVALID

If there is no coloured band in the C Zone within 15-20 minutes the test is **invalid**.

Repeat the test with a new test device.



What to do if your RAT returns the following results

POSITIVE

DO NOT ATTEND YOUR APPOINTMENT.

Isolate yourself and call us on 9428 8541 to discuss next steps (8am - 5pm M-F, 8am - 2pm Sat)

NEGATIVE

YOU MAY ATTEND YOUR APPOINTMENT.

Please take a photo of the result **AND** place the RAT in a ziplock bag to bring with you to the hospital.

INVALID

PLEASE REPEAT THE RAT USING THE SPARE TEST PROVIDED.

If two invalid test results are received, please contact your treating specialist and Cancer Centre to discuss next steps.