



Rapid Antigen Testing – Concessional Access Program fact sheet

Stay COVIDsafe - If you have symptoms of COVID-19, **don't** go to a pharmacy to collect a rapid antigen test. Instead, check your state or territory health authority's [directions](#) on what to do. In most cases, this will mean you should go straight to a COVID-19 testing centre.

About this program

The Australian government is introducing a temporary Rapid Antigen Test Concessional Access program. This new program starts on 24 January 2022 and ends on 30 April 2022.

If you have a valid, eligible Commonwealth concession card, you can access up to 10 rapid antigen tests through participating community pharmacies, at no cost to you. You can access a maximum of 10 rapid antigen tests over the three-month period, but no more than 5 tests in any month.

This temporary program enables eligible people to access rapid antigen tests, to be more confident engaging in your regular activities, while protecting yourself and others from COVID-19.

The Australian Government and state and territory governments are jointly funding this program to provide rapid antigen tests to eligible people at no cost.

Eligibility

If you have a valid Commonwealth concession card from the list below, you are eligible to receive up to 10 rapid antigen tests, over 3 months, at no cost to you from a participating community pharmacy:

- Pensioner Concession card;
- Commonwealth Senior Health Care card;
- Health Care Card (including Low Income Health Care card); or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold, White or Orange cards.

Details

If you're eligible, you will need to go to a participating community pharmacy in person to claim your tests, or have a guardian/carer attend to collect them on your behalf.

A valid Commonwealth concession card will need to be shown to the pharmacy. You will also need to agree to the pharmacy recording your concession card details into their system for supply, compliance, and pharmacy reimbursement purposes.

The pharmacy will then check and confirm if you've received any rapid antigen tests through the program, and what allocation you have remaining.

If you are confirmed as an eligible person by the participating pharmacy, with a remaining allocation available, you may be supplied with a minimum of two tests.

The pharmacy will record the supply details into their system of how many rapid antigen tests you received.

You may ask for your monthly test allocation limit as a single supply, if required. The decision to provide this will be at the discretion of the pharmacy, and dependent on whether the pharmacy has enough tests available. If you have already received the maximum number of tests you're entitled to, your pharmacy will let you know.

For the purposes of this program, the following time periods apply:

- **First month** 24 January 2022 to 28 February 2022
- **Second month** 1 March 2022 to 31 March 2022
- **Third month** 1 April 2022 to 30 April 2022

You will only be able to access a maximum of 5 tests in any month of the program, as outlined above, until you have reached the maximum number of tests available under the program.

The tests you receive under this program will be at **no charge** to you.

For more information about getting tested and reporting a positive rapid antigen test result visit the Department of Health [website](#), or check your local state or territory requirements.