

# Rapid antigen testing

Guide for Businesses



December 2021

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
please visit [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)

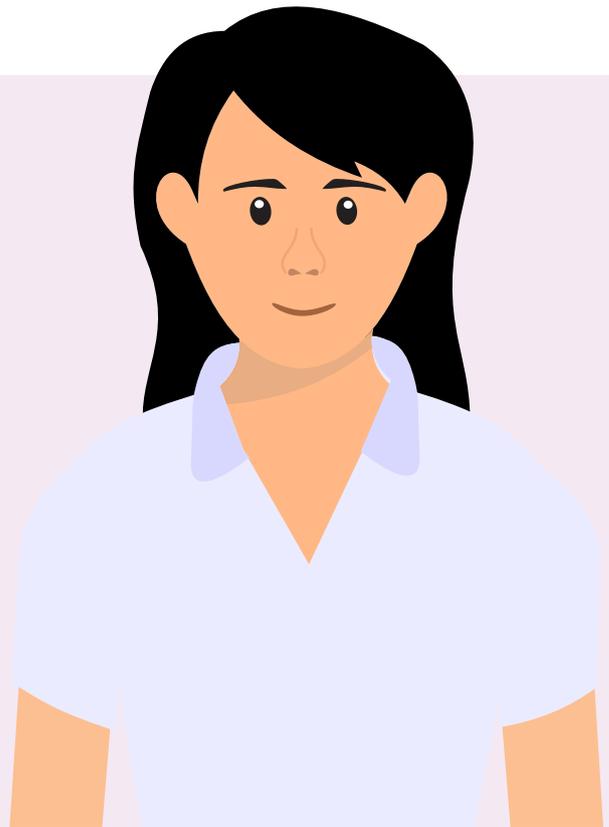
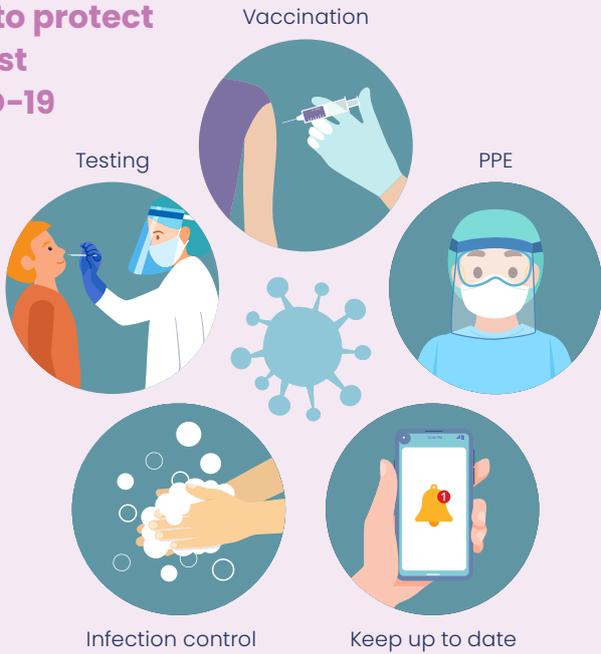
# Introduction

The shift to the COVID-19 Protection Framework allows businesses to open and operate close to normal and enables businesses to take control and manage COVID-19 in their workplace. This supports our overall goal to keep individuals and our communities safe.

This enables businesses to take responsibility for providing protection from COVID-19 in their workplace, and the following guide provides some key information on how Rapid Antigen Tests can be another tool added to your 'COVID-19 Toolbox'.

Rapid antigen tests are a choice for you as a business. It is not mandatory. You can decide if it will work for your business. COVID-19 testing will continue to be available for those who are symptomatic at local community testing centres (CTCs) and General Practices at no cost.

## Tools to protect against COVID-19



## What are Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT)?

### What is Rapid Antigen testing?

Rapid antigen tests are another tool to support you, your employees and your workplace to overcome COVID-19.

The use of rapid tests can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by identifying individuals early before they spread the virus to their colleagues and in the community.

Rapid antigen tests are best used as a surveillance tool as part of a series of tests. We would advise individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms to seek a test via their nearest CTC or local GP.

## Key information

### What happens if my rapid antigen test result is invalid?

- If your result is invalid, you will need to have a PCR test taken at a local Community Testing Centre, or with a local GP.

### What happens if my rapid antigen test result is positive?

If you get a positive rapid antigen test result, you must:

- Self-isolate at your place of accommodation
- Go for a COVID-19 PCR confirmatory test as soon as possible – visit [www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19](http://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19) to find the closest testing provider
- Follow all COVID-19 public health measures
- Contact Healthline for any COVID-19 health advice on **0800 358 5453**

**TO FIND OUT MORE**  
please visit [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government



Please be sure to read the instructions provided with the kits to ensure you're taking the right steps and reading your test result within the correct timeframe.

New Zealand Government



## What are the benefits?

- RAT are able to provide a test result in a short amount of time
- The test itself can be self-administered – noting that a supervised test is recommended

## Things to know about RAT

- It is a surveillance tool, and is not currently used to diagnose COVID-19
- If a test is positive, you will have to self-isolate and undertake a PCR test
- This may have an impact on day-to-day operations
- It is possible a RAT can be either false negative or false positive
- It is best used as a surveillance tool as part of a series of tests
- Businesses will need to fund RAT for surveillance testing in the workplace

## How do I get access to RAT?

Under the COVID-19 Public Health Response 2020 (Point of Care) Order (the Order) a number of rapid antigen test kits and importers have been approved. A list of these can be found [here](#).

Applications for the importation and use of rapid antigen tests can be made via the [Epidemic notice and Orders section](#).

For approved kits and distributors see the [Rapid Antigen Testing page](#).

## Things to do to prepare for RAT in the workplace

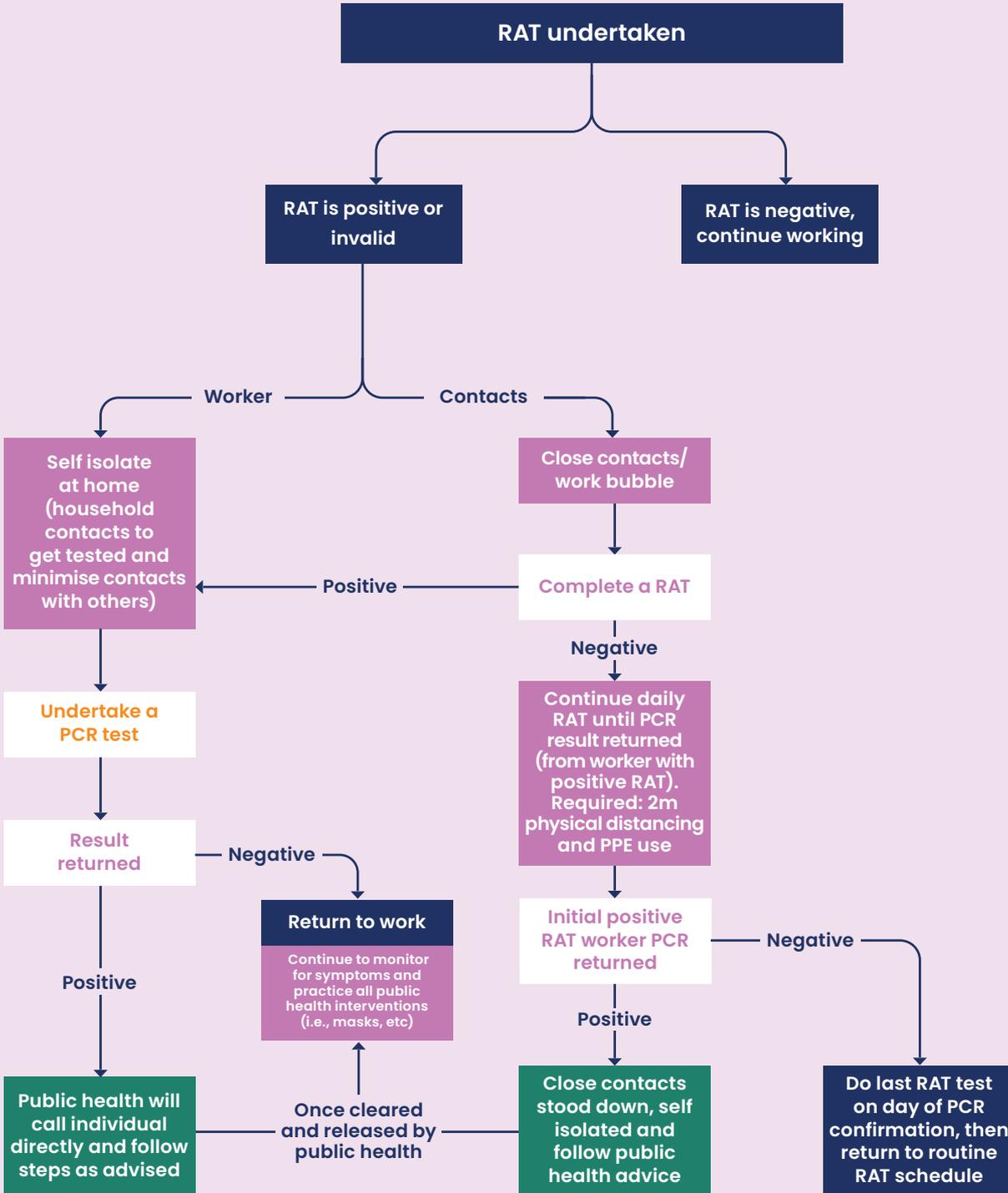
There are some key steps we recommend you take when preparing to use RAT in the workplace. These are:

- **Communicate** what is happening and why you're introducing RAT
  - This should include what happens if a positive test occurs
- **Prepare a Standard Operating Procedure** (attached is a template shared by MainFreight who were part of the MBIE RATS trial and revised this based on lessons learned)
- **Give it a go** – try a smaller group as a trial run to get a feel for it
  - This helps with the operations/logistics side of the testing
- **Create a site checklist** e.g. where, when, equipment needed
  - This helps on-training and gives people structure and guidance to follow
- **Allocate the necessary resources** in terms of number of supervised testers
  - Do you need to train one person in every bubble to perform the testing?
  - Or train 4-5 across a site?
- **Share the decision tree.** This can help people understand what it means for them as an individual if they have a positive RAT or if they are in a work bubble with someone else who tests positive, so they are well prepared.

# What to do if you get a positive RAT test at work

If a worker is experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms the worker needs to undertake a PCR test and isolate at home until their results are returned.

RAT produce on average 4 false positive results per 1000 tests. Work surveillance schemes should always confirm positive results with a PCR test and record the number of false positives.



## Appendix

Below are some useful links to find out further information about rapid antigen testing.

### Ministry of Health – Rapid antigen testing

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/assessment-and-testing-covid-19/rapid-antigen-testing#general>

### Approved suppliers and rapid antigen test kits

<https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2021-go4887>

### Roche

[https://diagnostics.roche.com/au/en\\_gb/c/covidqr-patients.html](https://diagnostics.roche.com/au/en_gb/c/covidqr-patients.html)

### CareStart

Arrow pharmaceuticals have some video tutorials available on their website.

VIDEO 1 – Health Professional Administering.

<https://vimeo.com/imageplay/review/586122621/153f8b6267>

VIDEO 2 – Patient Self-Administering

<https://vimeo.com/imageplay/review/586123696/cbc426f459>

### Panbio (Abbott)

<https://dam.abbott.com/en-gb/panbio/120007883-vl-Panbio-COVID-19-Ag-Nasal-AsymptomaticSe.pdf>

<https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/lp/panbio-covid-19-ag-test.html>

### CLINITEST (SIEMENS-Healthineers)

<https://www.clinitest.siemens-healthineers.com/en>

### Additional training support

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-rapid-testing-education-training-checklist.pdf> -

Training Checklist – to assist your site with local training to ensure all the important aspects of the test procedure are covered.

### Posters for businesses and organisations

<https://covid19.govt.nz/posters/#posters-for-businesses-and-organisations>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
please visit [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)

**We appreciate** all that you do to keep our communities safe and COVID-19 out.

To find out more please visit the Ministry of Health website.



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Please email [covid-19poc@health.govt.nz](mailto:covid-19poc@health.govt.nz) if you have any questions or want to find out your eligibility for rapid antigen testing.