



Surveillance Testing in Long Term Care Homes

The Panbio™ COVID-19 Ag Rapid Test is a screening tool that is used for point-of-care testing to detect COVID-19 in 15 to 20 minutes making it simpler and faster to identify potential COVID-19 positive cases that otherwise may be missed. A positive screen must be confirmed using a PCR test

How often do I need to be tested?

Staff, Caregivers, Students & Volunteers

Homes may choose to follow one of two options:

- Antigen Tests at a frequency set out in the Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing
 - Currently antigen testing 2-3 times per week in yellow/orange/red/grey zones and 1-2 times per week in a green zone

OR

- One PCR Test and one Antigen Test on separate days within a 7-day period;
- If only entering the home 2 times in a week on consecutive days, or only 1 time in a week, an Antigen Test is required on first day of entry only

Support Workers & General Visitors

- “Day of” antigen testing unless tested the previous day (i.e. Antigen Test result is valid for 2 days)
- Only required to be tested once a day. If attending multiple homes can show proof of negative test

When should I be tested?

Staff, Student & Volunteers:

- As soon as possible after entry to home

Caregivers & Support Workers (who are Regulated Health Professionals):

- Tested before entry but may have contact with residents (if wearing appropriate PPE and following IPAC guidelines) while awaiting results

Other Support Workers & General Visitors:

- Tested and receive results before gaining entry to the home

What if a Home wants to test more frequently?

Testing and screening guidelines provide minimum requirements and homes may implement a surveillance program with a greater antigen testing frequency

KEY FACTS

During an outbreak the rapid antigen testing program is paused. Homes should work with their local Public Health Unit if they wish to continue using antigen tests for specific purposes during the outbreak (e.g. for caregivers)

Collection of the Panbio™ test kit swab can be done by any trained individual via:

- swab of throat and both nares,
- a shallow (anterior) nasal swab, or
- a deep nasal swab*

Supervised self-swabbing is an optional and voluntary collection method

*Nasopharyngeal swab is another method but is a controlled act that can only be performed by regulated health care providers