

COVID-19 RAPID TESTING GUIDELINES

To ensure PCR testing is available to people at high-risk of severe outcomes or those who work in high-risk setting, we ask Albertans to adjust how they use rapid antigen testing for COVID-19.

People who do not meet the high-risk exceptions are not required to book a PCR test if they get a positive result from a rapid antigen test. Please follow the guidelines below.

Positive rapid test



With symptoms

Isolate immediately:

Fully vaccinated: 5 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer, plus 5 days of wearing a mask at all times when around others outside of home.

Not fully vaccinated: 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

Do not continue rapid testing.

Book a PCR test only if you meet the conditions listed below.

Notify all close contacts from the previous 48 hours that they should monitor for symptoms and be cautious about going to any high risk settings.

No symptoms

Isolate immediately.

Take second rapid test in 24 hours:

- If negative, isolation can end unless you develop symptoms.
- If positive, continue isolating as outlined above and book a PCR test only if you meet the conditions listed below.

If second test is positive, notify all close contacts from the previous 48 hours that they should monitor for symptoms and be cautious about going to any high risk settings.

Negative rapid test



With symptoms

Isolate for 24 hours.

Take second rapid test in 24 hours:

If negative, continue isolating until symptoms resolve before cautiously resuming normal activities.

If positive, continue isolating:

- Fully vaccinated: 5 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer, plus 5 days of wearing a mask at all times when around others outside of home.
- Not fully vaccinated: 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

No symptoms

A negative result does not rule out infection.

Isolation is not required but continue monitoring symptoms and following all public health guidelines.

PCR testing for high-risk people

People who test positive on a rapid antigen test should [book a PCR test through AHS](#) if they:

- live or work in a high-risk setting, or
- are at a high-risk of severe illness and [qualify for Sotrovimab monoclonal antibody treatment](#)

High-risk settings

- Congregate care settings (long term care, designated supportive living, lodges, group homes, hospices),
- Health care settings,
- Congregate living settings (corrections, shelters).

Eligibility criteria for Sotrovimab

- Unvaccinated and over the age of 55
- Unvaccinated and over the age of 18 with a pre-existing health condition, such as diabetes or chronic kidney disease, or if you are pregnant.
- Even if fully vaccinated, if you are immunocompromised due to having received a transplant, received a dose of chemotherapy since December 2020, or have an inflammatory condition, such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.