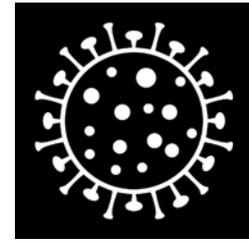


# HSE Covid-19

## Home Antigen Tests



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

The HSE is giving you home antigen tests for COVID-19.

### What do you need to do?

For information on what days you need to do your tests and how long you need to restrict your movements, please visit **Testing - HSE.ie**

**You can also call the COVID-19 helpline on  
1800 700 700**

### How to do the HSE home antigen tests

There is an instruction booklet in the box, which will provide information on how to store, use and dispose of your home antigen tests safely.

You can also watch a video on how to do a home antigen test on our website – go to **Testing - HSE.ie** or scan the QR code on page 2. If you require assistance with conducting and reading the results of the antigen test, please contact the **NCBI helpline on: 1800 911 250**



These are the general steps involved in doing an antigen test:

- Wash or sanitise your hands.
- Put all the items in the test kit on a clean surface.
- Open the prefilled tube and place it in the holder.
- Open the swab wrapping - only touch the swab at the handle, do not touch the soft pad at the tip.
- Insert the swab into your left nostril until you feel resistance, this is usually about 2cm to 4cm.
- Roll the swab five times inside the nostril.
- Using the same swab, repeat this process in your right nostril.
- Insert the swab into the tube until the soft pad is in the liquid.
- Stir the swab around for about one minute to make sure the liquid has a chance to absorb the sample on the swab.
- Squeeze the tube with both fingers and gently pull the swab out of the tube.
- Place one of the small plastic nozzle caps provided on top of the tube.
- Drop four drops of the liquid into the testing device.
- Wait for the recommended time on the instructions leaflet - usually in 15 minutes.
- The result will appear on the test device.

When you have finished with an antigen test, put it in a plastic bag and put the bag in your bin.

## **If any of your HSE home antigen tests are positive**

You should go to **Testing - HSE.ie** to find out what you need to do if your antigen test is positive.

You can also report your positive or negative antigen test result by going to **[www.hse.ie/reportantigenresult](http://www.hse.ie/reportantigenresult)** or you can scan the QR code below.



## **The difference between testing for COVID-19 at home and at a HSE test centre**

### **Antigen tests at home:**

The kind of tests you are being given to take at home are called antigen tests. You can do these tests yourself following the instructions in the box. The test will show the result in 15 minutes but they are less accurate than a PCR test.

## **PCR tests at a HSE COVID-19 test centre:**

HSE COVID-19 test centres use PCR tests. Your sample is taken by trained staff and results take between 24 - 48 hours. This is because the sample is analysed in a lab. It is more accurate than an antigen test.

## **Limitations of antigen testing**

Antigen tests are less accurate than PCR tests. In some cases, they may not detect the virus. This is why you should do the tests over a period of time.

For more information, please visit **[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)**.

If you have a query about your home antigen test you can call the **COVID-19 helpline on 1800 700 700**.

Also, if you have a query about conducting or reading your antigen test, please contact the **NCBI helpline on 1800 911 250**.

## Important Information – Please Read

- The enclosed Tests must be conducted in line with the Health Service Executive's advice and the manufacturer's guidelines and instructions for use. Tests for those under the age of 13 must be undertaken by an adult.
- The Health Service Executive does not represent or warrant that the enclosed Tests are or will be effective or will give any specific result or outcome.
- No liability arises whatsoever - whether direct, vicarious, consequential, contingent, special or incidental; whether as a matter of contract, tort, or otherwise - on the part of the Health Service Executive or anybody or person connected with the Health Service Executive with respect to the use - howsoever occurring - or storage of the tests. This legal disclaimer shall be governed by the laws of Ireland and any dispute shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Ireland.

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For the most up-to-date information visit **[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)**



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