

COVID-19 risk screening and Rapid Antigen Tests for Community and Oral Health Consumers (Bedded Services)

At Community and Oral Health, patient and staff safety are our highest priority. Screening for COVID-19 may be required at times throughout your care. This information sheet will provide you with an understanding of our process with the use of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT).

You will be asked to perform a Rapid Antigen Test under the following circumstances:

1. If you develop symptoms throughout your admission.
2. If you have been identified as a close contact or COVID-19 screening is required.
3. On transfer to an acute facility should you require escalated care or for priority procedures.

Why do I need to be tested?

Community and Oral Health is committed to providing safe and effective care to all who access our services. We want to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to you, other patients and our staff.

How is the test done?

A staff member will put the swab up both of your nostrils and briefly move it around. The swab is then placed in a chemical solution for a short time, and the fluid is squeezed on to a cartridge. It takes about 15 minutes to get a result.

What if my RAT result is negative?

If you have been identified as a close contact, a further test will be required at additional intervals. You will be advised of the testing timeframes by the clinical team in charge of your care.

If you require testing prior to transfer to another hospital, this information will be shared with the new team that will be looking after you.

If you have symptoms and return a negative result, you will continue to be monitored closely and cared for with the necessary infection control measures to minimise transmission between other patients and staff.

What if my RAT result is positive?

A positive result means that you have COVID-19. You will be transferred to a designated COVID-19 Isolation Area within Community and Oral Health and assessed to decide if you need to be transferred to one of our Metro North Hospitals. Please be assured that clinical care will continue to be delivered in a safe and effective way. These areas have been established in accordance with the guidelines and directives from Public Health and Infection Control.

If you have any further questions, please speak with your clinical care team.