HSW Guidance Criteria - Self-Administered Rapid Antigen Testing for UQ Business Purposes

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are self-administered tests for detecting the COVID-19 virus. The University has bulk ordered TGA-approved self-administered RATs to be used for core business purposes.

UQ business units will be able to order the tests on a needs basis via UQ Store (UQeMarket) at cost price. Orders should only be placed where there is a UQ official purpose, to manage identified COVID-19 risks.

Key items to consider when using RATs:

- They are most accurate when used when a person has symptoms.
- Using them when no symptoms are present, when a person is well, may provide a false negative.
- Instruction for an accurate result must be followed specifically as per the test user instructions.

Under no circumstances are the tests to be provided to staff or students for personal use such as:-

- For use at home if a person thinks they have been exposed to a positive case and want to test themselves to see if they may be positive. RATs are mostly effective when someone is symptomatic, and if that is the case, the person should not be attending a UQ location at all.
- To determine if people can attend work when they have no symptoms and as a precautionary measure. Persons that want to test themselves as a precaution will need to source their own RAT from retail providers – and for those that are required to have a RAT in accordance with a public health isolation (as a close contact) direction, will also need to obtain their own RAT kit or present to a QH facility where they will be available.

Principles around this guideline

1. Unless exempt under the Vaccination Procedure, RATs do not mitigate the need for someone attending a UQ location from 14 February 2022 to be fully vaccinated.
2. Due to limited supply, RATs should be only used where necessary.
3. RATs may be used for testing and infection control:
   a. Especially in student accommodation and other University-controlled household like settings; and
   b. In University settings where there are higher risks of transmission; and
   c. In settings where potential consequences are higher, including disruption to business and study programs.
4. It is important to remember that RATs are most accurate when symptoms are present, they should have limited use as a precautionary indicator of infection as this may lead to a false sense of security by providing false negatives.
5. As always, if unwell, a person should not be attending a UQ location.

Priority business purposes:

RATs for business purposes should be used where core business or study needs to continue as a matter of priority. The following examples provide guidance:

- Those who are medically exempt from vaccination - this is to be managed by placement co-coordinator or the staff member’s supervisor through conversations with Student Services and Human Resources.
- As identified in a UQ risk assessment as a control measure.
- UQ owned residential accommodation (Kev Carmody House and Gatton Halls of Residences) where staff or students were in close contact with a positive person and where a negative test is required to be released from quarantine. Local protocols to be established.
- At UQ owned clinics (ie PSY, SHRS, Dentistry) or UQ research involving human participants where participants require a RAT.
• Where staff work and share accommodation, kitchen facilities and ablution blocks e.g. Research Stations where UQ staff or student has exhibited COVID like symptoms (to use as they need – local protocols to be established).
• Field trips where there has been close contact e.g. travelling in the same vehicle for long period of time with a COVID positive person, where people have shared accommodation kitchen facilities and ablution blocks. Local protocols to be established.
• If Queensland Health (or other related health care provider) require staff and students on specific clinical placement to have a RAT as part of the clinical placement, and the employer is unable to provide it themselves.

For more information on types of tests available and how to get tested for personal reasons, visit https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/covid-19/testing