



GUIDELINES ON ANTIGEN RAPID TESTING DURING TRANSITION & ENDEMIC PHASES OF THE NATIONAL COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN

1. Background

- Antigen Rapid Test (ART) is a fast and easy swab test which can be self-administered, for individuals to test if they might be infected with the COVID-19 virus. They can be purchased at pharmacies and other businesses at affordable cost.
- Commencing during the transition phase, the government will implement the widespread use of ART as part of testing regime for individuals who are otherwise without symptoms.

2. Exclusion criteria

- Individuals must not perform the ART self-testing if they:
 - Have fever, cough, flu, or runny nose.
 - Had nosebleed in the past 24 hours.
 - Had nasal surgery in the last 4 weeks.
 - Had facial surgery in the last 8 weeks.
- Individuals with acute respiratory illness (ARI) e.g., fever, cough, running nose or sore throat should seek medical treatment. They may be offered a PCR test and are advised to self-isolate until they have received the results of the PCR test.

3. For individuals who are fully vaccinated

- The Ministry of Health recommends regular self-testing with ART for all individuals who are fully vaccinated at least, **ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS**.
- Civil servants will undergo Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) using ART as part of the 'return to office' strategy. The frequency of RRT will depend on the risk profile of the occupation – front-liners and those at higher risk will have RRT at greater frequency than back-office employees. The costs for this will be borne by the government.
- Private sector organizations are advised to conduct RRT as part of their business continuity plans to protect their employees and ensure business operations are unaffected by large clusters developing in their operations.



- High-risk workers such as food service and retail staff, and workers in the construction sector, and manufacturing industry should conduct ART more frequently, e.g., twice a week.
- Individuals who will be attending private social gatherings or other social events should also conduct ART just prior to participating in such events.

4. For individuals who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated

- Individuals who have not yet been fully vaccinated are **NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER PUBLIC PREMISES** during the transition phase. During the endemic phase proof of negative ART result that has been conducted on the day of entry may be accepted in lieu of vaccination status. They are also restricted from attending private social gatherings.
- The proof of negative ART should be in the form of an ART conducted under observation by the relevant authority or store owner or can be in the form of a certificate issued by a Supervised ART site that is registered with the Ministry of Health. These certificates will be issued with a validity period that expires in one day.

5. In the event of a positive result

- If you have received a positive result on ART, it may mean that you are potentially infected with COVID-19. You should isolate yourself and proceed to a COVID-19 swab Centre and get a confirmatory test. You should continue isolation until you have received the results of your confirmatory test.

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Note:

*Children under the age of 12, when together with a party of fully vaccinated adults will be granted the same exemptions that applies to fully vaccinated individuals **during the endemic phase only.***