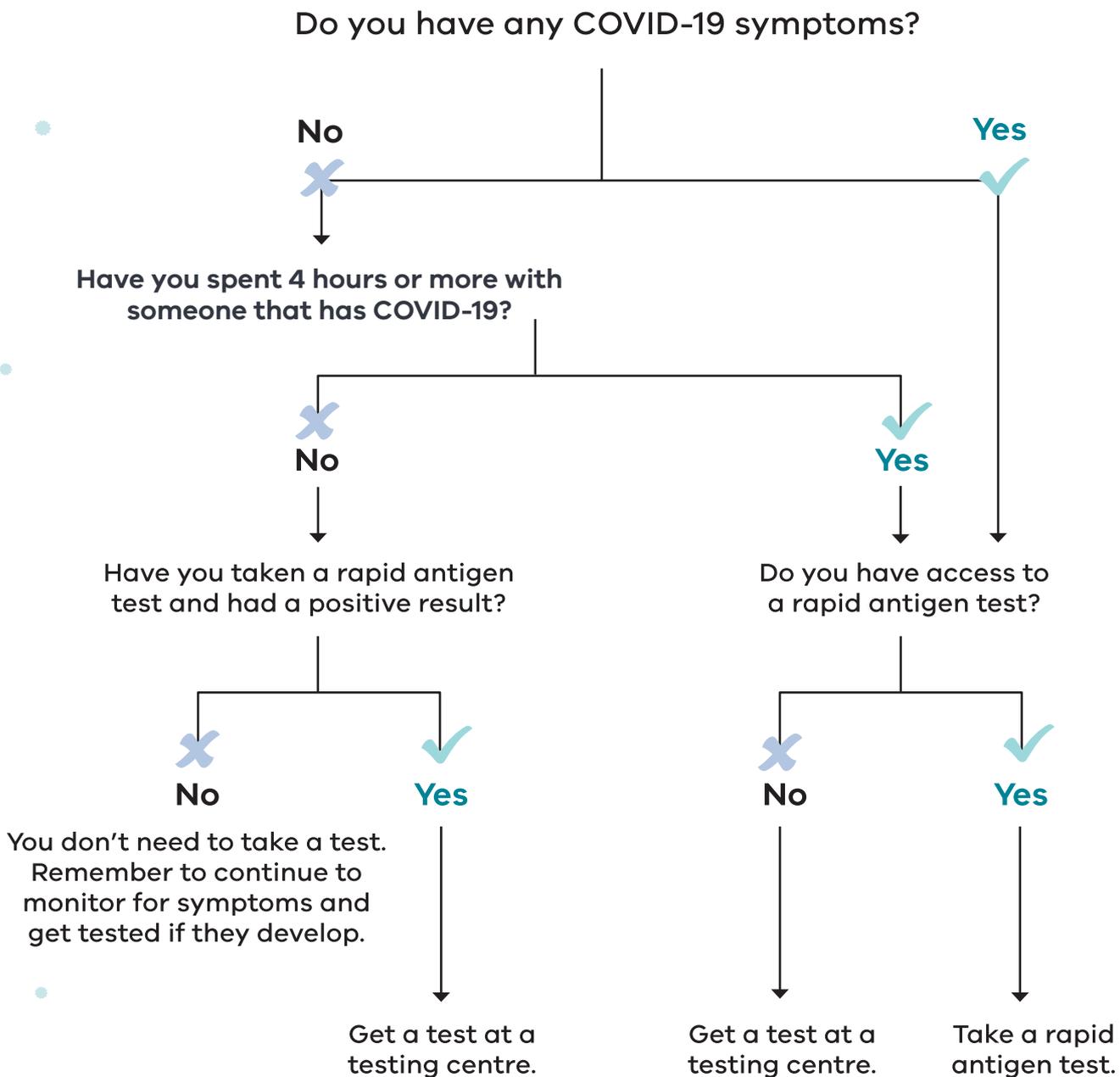# Understanding rapid antigen tests

Rapid antigen tests (RATs or RA tests) can be used to quickly check if you have COVID-19. They can provide a result quickly, usually within 15-30 minutes, and can be used at home.

When to use a rapid antigen test

Do you have any COVID-19 symptoms?

No ✖

Yes ✔

Have you spent 4 hours or more with someone that has COVID-19?

No ✖

Yes ✔

Have you taken a rapid antigen test and had a positive result?

Do you have access to a rapid antigen test?

No ✖   **Yes** ✔

No ✖   **Yes** ✔

You don't need to take a test. Remember to continue to monitor for symptoms and get tested if they develop.

Get a test at a testing centre.

Get a test at a testing centre.

Take a rapid antigen test.

For more information on when to get tested call the coronavirus hotline on **1800 675 398** or go to **www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/getting-tested**

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Understanding rapid antigen tests

Who can get rapid antigen tests for free

The following concession card holders can get them for free from a pharmacy:

- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- Department of Veteran's Affairs Gold, White or Orange Card
- Health Care Card
- Low Income Health Card
- Pensioner Concession Card.

NDIS participants and people with a disability support pension can get them for free from their Disability Liaison Officer or at state-run testing sites.

If you are a contact of someone with COVID-19 or you have symptoms you can get a rapid antigen test from a testing centre.

Understanding your rapid antigen test result

How your result will appear	What it means	What to do next
Negative	It is **unlikely** you have COVID-19	Monitor for symptoms.
Positive	It is **very likely** that you have COVID-19. The result is positive even if the second line is very faint.	**Isolate** for 7 days and follow the advice at **www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-cases**. **Report** your result to the Department of Health at **www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/report** or on **1800 675 398**. Press 0 (zero) if you need an interpreter when you call. **Tell** people you have seen recently that you have tested positive and they should get tested too. **Support** is available – see **www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/support** for information on how to access it.
Invalid	The test has **not worked**.	Take another rapid antigen test. If the second test is invalid, you should get a test at a testing site.

For more information visit **www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests**

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