

prepared in collaboration with [@CochraneOrg](https://www.cochrane.org)

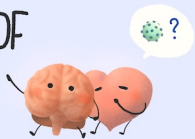
NOT TOO EARLY  
TOO SOON



How a Rapid Antigen Test can help  
when you need to find out if someone has COVID-19 ASAP

GENTLE FACTS

# AN ADDED LAYER OF PROTECTION



Sometimes we need a quick & easy answer Now to decide what to do and reduce transmission risk, e.g.

- Regularly testing someone who provides care for children or high-risk individuals
- Making sure your sniffle is just allergies or a common cold
- As an added layer of precaution before hanging out with an elder or immuno-compromised person (if unvaxxed, do not spend time indoors with a person at high risk)
- Testing unvaxxed children periodically before going to camp or school
- Testing unvaxxed guests immediately before a gathering

# WHAT ARE RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS?

Detect proteins on the virus, which implies current viral infection

Applicable to people of any age

Advantages compared to RT-PCR tests:



- **easy** to perform from **anywhere** (available online & in pharmacies without prescriptions)
- **less expensive**  
(~\$15–50 per antigen test)
- **fast results** in 15–30 minutes



# HOW RELIABLE ARE THEY?

*global gold standard*  
Cochrane systematically reviewed 48 studies & found that brands varied in accuracy. On average:

How likely it is for your test result to be correct

	 If you are infected (Sensitivity)	 If you are not infected (Specificity)
Symptomatic	72% (Most accurate within 1 week of showing symptoms: 78%)	99.5%
Asymptomatic	58%	98.9%

Based on

- 17,111 samples
- 7415 confirmed cases of Covid (by RT-PCR test)
- 16 different antigen tests