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

GENTLE FACTS
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 snifflie 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?**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>If you are infected (Sensitivity)</th>
<th>If you are not infected (Specificity)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symptomatic</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
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<td>(Most accurate within 1 week of showing symptoms: 78%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asymptomatic</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
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Based on:
- 17,111 samples
- 7415 confirmed cases of Covid (by RT-PCR test)
- 16 different antigen tests

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