



Changes to the Rapid Antigen Screening for the “jury bubble”

Information Sheet for Stakeholders

Changes to COVID testing

Commencing Monday 4 April 2022, Rapid Antigen Screening processes currently in place will be replaced by a Rapid Antigen self-test regime to be conducted within court premises.

Why is this changing?

The increasing and additional demands of providing clinical support through point of care has made it necessary to adopt a new model for providing Rapid Antigen Testing for jury and Judge Alone trials. The environment surrounding Rapid Antigen Testing has changed substantially offering new opportunities for efficiencies. The most obvious being the potential to conduct Rapid Antigen Testing outside the clinical framework. This allows the Office of the Sheriff to better tailor its COVID-19 mitigation strategy to meet its needs without the need to outsource the oversight of the testing regime.

How will the new testing regime be conducted?

Jurors, legal practitioners, accused persons on Bail and witnesses will be provided with their self-test kits upon attendance at court.

Whilst the location of testing on court premises may vary for each location, the basis for testing will be consistent across all locations.

All trial participants will be required to undergo RAT testing on the first day of a jury or Judge Alone trial and every 48 hours for the duration of the trial. Persons who test positive will be required to leave the premises and comply with self-isolation guidelines as set out by the NSW Government.

Clinicians will no longer supervise the testing process, instead, Sheriff Officers and Court Officers will assist in confirming self-test results and recording this information on the RAT checklist (as per the current practice).

Testing for Legal Practitioners and participants

Legal practitioners and participants will be required to undertake RAT self-testing on the first day of the trial. In most locations testing will be conducted within the courtroom prior to the commencement of proceedings. However, this may change depending on each location.

Legal practitioners and participants will be required to attend their designated courtroom at least 15 minutes earlier than their allocated matter commencement time in order to undertake RAT.

Further information

For further information please contact the Sheriff RAS team at sheriff.RAS@justice.nsw.gov.au