Want access to rapid COVID-19 testing?

Now Scheme members can access antigen tests (and more) at conveniently located drive-through facilities.

"That's why we've introduced the option to access rapid antigen testing for COVID-19 she adds.

Antigen tests (also called Rapid Point of Care Tests) can, within 60 minutes, detect whether a person has contracted COVID-19.

This is particularly important in the context of the third wave of COVID-19 infection that our country is currently experiencing. Quick access to testing is critical to identifying people who have contracted the disease and directing them to self-isolate and focus on their healthcare needs while preventing the spread of infection to others.

Antigen testing network providers

Scheme members can access antigen testing at one of our network providers:

- PathCare, when referred by the doctor who screened you
- Dischem pharmacies

Drive-through testing locations

Scheme members will be able to access antigen testing at:

- **Century City Conference Centre**: P2 Parking, 5 Kinetic Way, Century City
- **Old Christian Barnard Hospital**: 111 Bree St, Cape Town City Centre

Times: Monday-Friday: 8:00-16:00 | Weekends and Public Holidays: 8:00-14:00

- **Sandton**: BluBird Shopping Centre, Cnr. Atholl Oaklands Road and Fort Street, Birnam.
- **Next Biosciences Midrand**: International Business Gateway, Cnr New Road & 6th Road (weekdays only)

    Support contact line: 011 697 2931 Website: https://nextbio.co.za/nextpath/

- **Pretoria:** Loftus Park Shopping Centre Underground Parking, 416 Kirkness Street, Arcadia

Times: Monday-Friday: 8:00-16:00 | Weekends and Public Holidays: 8:00-14:00

- **Durban:** Cornubia Mall undercover parking M30, Cnr. Tecoma and Flanders Drive, Mt Edgecombe

Times: Monday - Friday 08:00 - 16:00 | Weekends and Public Holidays: 8:00 - 13:00

Private Bag X2, Rivonia 2128 | Emergency 0860 999 911 | Call Centre 0800 226 5633 | www.bankmed.co.za | enquiries@bankmed.co.za

Bankmed Medical Scheme. Registration number: 1279

Once at the drive through locations, an administrator will assist you with registering online, completing the screening questionnaire and filling in your personal details. Thereafter, a Healthcare Professional will take a swab from your nose which will be sent for analysis. You need not wait for results as these will be sent to you via SMS.

What do antigen tests cost?

- Antigen tests cost R390 each.

Do my medical scheme benefits cover the costs?

- Scheme members have access to two COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and two rapid antigen tests per beneficiary per annum, as part of the screening benefit of the WHO Global Outbreak Benefit. If you use a provider outside of the network, or you have already used the available two tests in the benefit, you will have to pay for the test.

What happens once I receive my antigen test results?

- If your antigen test is positive, you will receive a call from the doctor who referred you for the test, if you were screened by the pharmacy nurse then please ensure you call your doctor to discuss next steps.
- Should you have symptoms of COVID-19 but receive a negative antigen test result, you will be directed to have a PCR test (*see details below) to verify your results

COVID RAPID ANTIBODY TESTING

These tests are:

- Also called Rapid Point of Care tests
- Useful in identifying people who have already had a COVID-19 infection and may no longer be infectious
- NOT used to diagnose an active (current) COVID-19 infection
- Analyse a drop of blood from a finger prick
- Provide results within 60 minutes.

COVID *PCR TESTING

*These tests are:

- Commonly referred to as PCR or RT-PCR tests
- Considered the gold-standard in COVID-19 and the most sensitive type of test we have access to (high chance of picking up an infection)
- Recommended for people who have symptoms of COVID-19, travellers and patients requiring hospital admission
- Carried out on a sample taken by swabbing the nose or throat (done by a healthcare professional) and sent to a pathology lab (e.g. but not limited to PathCare, Lancet, Ampath, Vermaak) to analyse.
- Results are available within 24 hours.

Find more COVID-19 testing sites around the country

Lancet Laboratories

Ampath Laboratories

Pathcare