

# Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Information for Primary Care Physicians Prescribing Paxlovid™

April 27, 2022

## Background

Primary care physicians can prescribe Paxlovid™ for patients who meet [eligibility requirements](#). To help Albertans receive timely COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment, rapid antigen tests (RATs) are being made available to primary care physicians through AHS Contracting, Procurement and Supply Management (CPSM).

## Key Points

- Timing for Paxlovid™ prescription is important because the treatment must be taken within five days of symptom onset.
- Primary care physicians can use RATs to streamline patients' accessibility to the treatment.
- Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 do not require treatment; those at increased risk for poor outcomes **and** who meet the eligibility criteria may benefit from treatment.
- The purpose of making RATs available to primary care physicians is to allow them to perform testing in the clinic environment, which can support clinical diagnosis and expedite the treatment process for those who meet the treatment criteria for Paxlovid™ and are at increased risk for poor outcomes.
- Primary care physician clinics can order RATs through AHS CPSM at no cost—see order details below.
- Primary care physicians are not expected to provide letters verifying that their patients have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Rapid antigen test kits ordered through AHS are not meant to be distributed to patients for home testing.
- Patients can get free RATs to help detect COVID-19 at home at participating pharmacies. Patients can find instructions and a list of pharmacies through [Alberta Health](#).

## Primary Care Physicians RAT ordering process (at no cost)

- Primary care physicians may request RATs directly through AHS Contracting, Procurement and Supply Management (CPSM).
- Physicians should use [this online form](#) when ordering. Ordering instructions are included on the form.
- Note: this is a different process than the PCN “hub and spoke” order process used for PPE. Orders for RAT kits will go directly from primary care physician clinics to CPSM.

## For More Information:

- Primary care information on COVID-19 and additional Paxlovid™ resources: [www.ahs.ca/covidphc](http://www.ahs.ca/covidphc)
- Testing advice: [Paxlovid Testing Advice for Primary Care Providers \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](http://albertahealthservices.ca)
- General questions: [phc@ahs.ca](mailto:phc@ahs.ca)