ANTIGEN RAPID TEST (ART) FAQs

(ART positive result is termed "Ag+"; Two consecutive ART invalid results is termed "re-tested Ag invalid")

GENERAL

1. Who should undertake the ART test?

A: Workers who do not have Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) symptoms (i.e. fever, cough, runny nose and loss of taste/smell).

*Workers with ARI symptoms should consult a telemedicine provider via their FWMOMCare app or visit a medical centre (e.g. regional medical centres for dorm dwellers or SASH PHPC) by reporting sick to their employer or dormitory operator. They should not undertake the ART test. Please refer to the section "**WORKFLOW FOR WORKERS WITH ARI SYMPTOMS**" below for more details.*

2. Why are we looking at antigen rapid test kit to complement rostered routine testing (RRT)?

A: Frequent and widespread testing is an important enabler that allows for more economic and social activities to continue in a safe manner. The use of PCR COVID-19 tests has been very effective in detecting positive cases across various settings, such as for patients with symptoms of acute respiratory infections and rostered routine testing for frontline workers at our borders. It remains the most suitable and effective clinical diagnosis for COVID-19 infection.

ARTs can complement our existing testing regimes where used appropriately. While such alternative tests are less sensitive than the PCR tests, they are cheaper, faster and more convenient to administer, which make them more practical for frequent use, and very effective surveillance tests. This will enable us to expand the scale of testing in the wider population, allowing us to identify potential infections earlier and to trigger public health actions sooner to stem further spread.

3. Will the employer have to pay for the ART kits and other necessary public health actions (e.g. conveyance etc)?

A: The ART test kits will be government-funded for the pilot phase.

The cost of conveyance of Ag+/re-tested Ag invalid workers from (i) the worksite to the SASH PHPC and (ii) the SASH PHPC to their place of accommodation for self-isolation until their PCR results are out, should be borne by employers.

The confirmatory PCR swab test at SASH PHPCs will also be government-funded for workers without ARI symptoms and/or who are tested Ag+/re-tested Ag invalid twice (refer to Q7). However, if your worker seeks other treatment, there will be charges for those, subjected to prevailing patient payables and subsidies.

If the worker is diagnosed by the SASH PHPC doctor to have ARI symptoms, the worker would receive subsidised consultation and treatment as follows:

- *Singaporean and Permanent Residents, as well as eligible Work Permit holders would pay a flat subsidised rate of $10;*
- *Pioneer Generation (PG) and Merdeka Generation (MG) seniors would pay a lower rate of $5; and*
- *Holders of other types of Work Passes (e.g. S-Pass, Employment Pass) are not eligible for subsidised consultation and treatment of ARI symptoms at PHPCs, and the usual clinic charges may apply.*

4. Can my workers opt out of ART? Can I reschedule their ART test?

A: No. Frequent and widespread testing is an important enabler for workers to continue to work at worksites in a safe manner. The ART frequency ensures that it complements the existing RRT regime in detecting cases early and limiting transmission of COVID-19.

5. Will the use of the ART kit result in increased false negative/false positive cases?

A: Compared to the PCR test, the ART kit will yield results in a shorter time frame but it may have a lower accuracy rate. Therefore, we will use a confirmatory PCR test to affirm the status of any COVID-19 positive cases. This is to mitigate the likelihood of false positives.

To mitigate any false negatives, the pilot group would be tested at a more frequent interval. We will use the ART tests as additional testing while the workers continue to go their RRT using PCR tests every 14 days.

WORKFLOW FOR AG+ OR RE-TESTED AG INVALID WORKERS (ASYMPTOMATIC)

6. What do I do if my worker's ART result is invalid?

A: Arrange for your worker to do a re-test immediately. If the re-test result is also invalid, your worker will be subjected to the same requirements as an Ag+ individual.

7. How will I be informed if my worker's ART result is positive/re-tested invalid?

A: The main contractor POC or the site supervisor will contact you immediately. Please ensure you remain contactable during the period your workers are undergoing the tests.

8. What do I do if my workers are tested Ag+/re-tested Ag invalid (without ARI symptoms)?

A: Your main contractor POC or site supervisor should immediately:

i. *isolate them at the worksite*
ii. *inform their employer*
iii. *issue the (a) referral note for confirmatory PCR swab and (b) memo for Ag+/re-tested Ag invalid individuals (reminding workers of their requirement to go for a confirmatory swab and self-isolate until a negative PCR test result) (see Annex A and B for samples)*

You (their employer) should immediately:

iv. *contact the nearest SASH PHPC (refer to Q9) to book/confirm a swab appointment for a confirmatory PCR test*
v. *convey them to the SASH PHPC via private transport (refer to the section "**CONVEYANCE OF AG+/RE-TESTED AG INVALID WORKERS**" for more details on conveyance)*
vi. *submit ART results to Sector Leads*
vii. *after the confirmatory PCR test, convey them to their residential place via private transport for self-isolation until negative PCR result (unless worker is unable to self-isolate at his residential place and is therefore conveyed by the SASH PHPC to a swab isolation facility (SIF)). If your worker stays in the dorm, please be reminded to inform the dorm operator to isolate him upon reaching the dorm.*

If PCR test result is positive	***If PCR test result is negative***
It confirms that your worker is infected with COVID-19. MOH will contact the worker on the follow-up actions.	*Your worker may return to work immediately.*

9. What are the SASH PHPCs that I can send my workers to?

A: Please send them to the nearest SASH PHPC, to minimize contact between your Ag+ worker and the driver. A list of SASH PHPCs and their opening/swabbing hours can be found at http://phpc.gov.sg. ***You must call the clinic to make an appointment and confirm that your workers are able to obtain a confirmatory COVID-19 PCR test during their visit, before conveying them to the SASH PHPC*** *via private transport. Confirmatory COVID-19 PCR tests can also be obtained from non-SASH PCR test providers at your own expense.*

10. What must my worker bring along for the confirmatory PCR swab at the SASH PHPC?

*A: Your worker **must** bring along:*

i. *The completed referral document (i.e. referral note or PRPP-generated referral slip) from the contractor POC or site supervisor*
ii. *His personal ID (work pass card or NRIC).*
iii. *The memo for Ag+/re-tested Ag invalid individuals from the contractor POC or site supervisor*

11. What must I do after my worker has taken his PCR swab at the SASH PHPC?

*A: He must be sent back to his place of residence for self-isolation via private transport (refer to requirements under the section "**CONVEYANCE OF AG+/RE-TESTED AG INVALID WORKERS**" below. He can only leave his residence once he is notified of a negative result. In the case of a positive result, he will be conveyed from his home to a care facility.*

If he is unable to self-isolate at his place of accommodation or has ARI symptoms, the SASH PHPC will contact the Case Management Task Group (CMTG) at 6435-4060 to help arrange for conveyance to a Swab Isolation Facility (SIF).

[Note: For general enquiries on management of Ag+/Re-tested Ag Invalid worker, please contact MOH via modes listed under https://www.moh.gov.sg/contact-us. The Case Management Task Group (CMTG)'s phone number should only be used for arranging conveyance of Ag+/C+ cases]

12. How will my worker be notified of his PCR test results?

A: An SMS notification will be sent to him if tested PCR-negative. For other results (including PCR-positive), the SASH PHPC will give your worker a call to inform your worker of the test results.

13. What do I do to my other workers if I have a worker tested Ag+?

A: No further action is required until the confirmation of PCR results. They should continue to adhere to Safe Management Measures, e.g. wearing a mask when leaving their place of residence, at all times.

WORKFLOW FOR WORKERS WITH ARI SYMPTOMS

14. What happens if my worker has ARI symptoms before undergoing ART?

A: Your worker will not be able to undergo the ART and will be barred from entering the worksite. Please arrange for him to consult a telemedicine provider via their FWMOMCare app or visit a medical centre (e.g. regional medical centres for dorm dwellers or SASH PHPC) by reporting sick to their employer or dormitory operator. A list of SASH PHPCs and their opening/swabbing hours can be found at http://phpc.gov.sg.

15. What should I do if my worker has taken the ART, and is found to have ARI symptoms after the ART?

A: If he is Ag-, please arrange for him to be sent to a SASH PHPC immediately for ARI treatment as well as a PCR swab. He will not be allowed to work until the end of his MC duration or a negative PCR result, whichever is earlier.

*If he is Ag+/re-tested invalid and shows ARI symptoms, full public health actions will commence. Please **isolate him immediately and contact CMTG at 6435-4060** to arrange for conveyance to Hospital/Community Care Facility (CCF), and follow up actions such as contact tracing, given his higher pre-test probability.*

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CONVEYANCE OF AG+/RE-TESTED AG INVALID WORKERS

16. My Ag+/re-tested invalid worker rides his own motorbike. Can he go down to the SASH PHPC by himself?

A: Yes. Please ensure he travels alone, without any pillion.

17. I will be arranging transport using my own vehicle and driver. Does the driver have to wear a N95 mask and be in PPE (personal protective equipment)?

A: This is not necessary as the workers are not confirmed to have COVID-19. However, as they still have a higher likelihood of being COVID-19 positive, please ensure the following:

i. The driver wears a 3-ply surgical mask
ii. Vehicle windows are completely wound down, with air-conditioning turned off
iii. Worker wears a mask and is seated alone and diagonally across the driver in the backseat
iv. Worker is transported individually

18. I am unable to arrange for private transport for my worker to visit a SASH PHPC. What alternatives do I have?

*A: You can use the taxi or private hire car services listed below. As the workers have a higher likelihood of being COVID-19 positive, workers are **not allowed** to take public transport (e.g. bus/train) or other forms of private transport (e.g. street-hail a taxi).*

Employers/workers who opt to arrange for private transport using call booking are required to inform the hotline operator that the worker is going to a SASH PHPC for his swab test. If a mobile application is used, employers/workers must key "SHN" in the chat/note/comment box or check the SHN checkbox (if provided within the app).

You are required to adhere to the requirements for conveyance in Q17.

	Service Provider	Contact Number* / Mobile Application	Estimated Charges
1	ComfortDelgro (Comfort & CityCab taxis)	6333 1133 or via ComfortDelGro app	Booking fee (between $2.30 to $4.50) on top of taxi metered fare
2	Trans-cab	6213 0997	
3	SMRT	6477 5971	
4	Prime	6776 7553	
5	Premier	6681 9462	
6	GrabSHN, Go-Jek, Ryde, MVL(TADA)	via respective providers' app	Flat fare based on App