

**Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19**

**Patient Information Leaflet**

This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19 and contains answers to many of the commonly asked questions. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer or you would like further explanation please ask.

**What is a Rapid Antigen Test for COVID-19?**

A rapid antigen test for COVID-19 is a test carried out on a small sample of your saliva. It is done at the chairside and does not need to be sent to a laboratory. Its purpose is to detect COVID-19 infection and it gives a result in about 15 minutes.

**Why do I need a Rapid Antigen Test for COVID-19?**

Dental treatment undertaken by students at Cork University Dental School and Hospital (CUDSH) often takes place on an open-plan clinic. All patients attending CUDSH are screened by questionnaire for COVID-19 and our open-plan clinics are well-ventilated, with good spacing between patients. Rapid Antigen Testing is an extra safety measure that should help us to detect those who have COVID-19 but are not aware of it. This would reduce the risk of an infectious patient being treated in an open-plan area and make the environment even safer for all our patients.

**What is involved with Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19?**

If you agree to a Rapid Antigen Test, you will be asked to provide a sample of saliva when you arrive at the clinic. This saliva sample will be tested at the chairside and the result will be available to you in about 15 minutes.

**Is there a fee for Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19?**

No. This test will not cost you anything.

**What happens if I do not agree to a Rapid Antigen Test?**

If you do not have a Rapid Antigen Test it will usually still be possible for you to have your treatment carried out at CUDSH. However, you cannot be scheduled for certain types of treatment in the open-plan area and this **may** delay your treatment overall.

**What happens if my test is positive?**

If your test is positive, you may have COVID-19, despite not being aware of any symptoms. We will not continue with treatment on the day of a positive test and will advise that you go home immediately whilst wearing your mask, self-isolate in a room and contact your own doctor (GP). You should tell your GP that a Rapid Antigen Test for COVID-19, carried out at CUDSH, was positive. Your GP will advise you what to do next and is likely to refer you for a COVID-19 swab test.

**Can I return for treatment another day?**

Absolutely! If you have a swab test that diagnoses COVID-19 then your doctor will let you know when it is safe for you to return for treatment. If you have a swab test that does not detect COVID-19 then it is likely that your Rapid Antigen Test result was a false positive and your appointment can be re-arranged.

**If my test is negative does that mean I do not have COVID-19?**

Not necessarily! The antigen testing used at CUDSH is approximately 97% accurate\*. If your test is negative, you must still continue to adhere to all public health guidance as usual. You may still have COVID-19 that has not been detected by this screening test.

\*(*Accuracy of test used at CUDSH approximately 97% (95% CI L94.9% -98.5%), sensitivity 90.1% and specificity 99.3% at the time of preparing this document – February 2021)*

**This leaflet is available online at** [**http://www.ucc.ie/en/dentalschool/patients/**](http://www.ucc.ie/en/dentalschool/patients/)