

Singapore deploys vending machines to distribute antigen rapid test kits

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The vending machines are available for 24/7 access

The Ministry of Health (MOH) in Singapore is deploying 100 vending machines across 56 locations islandwide, for distribution of Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kits.

According to the Health Ministry, individuals who receive a Health Risk Warnings (HRW) SMS notification must get an entry polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test at a Swab and Send Home (SASH) clinic or Private Practitioner (PP), and self-isolate until they receive a negative result from their first PCR test.

They will also be required to perform self-administered ART tests on the third, fifth and seventh day from the day of last exposure to the COVID-19 case whom they were close contacts with, followed by another exit PCR test on or after the eighth day at a SASH clinic or PP. If all these are complied with, their HRW period will end on the tenth day of exposure. All swab costs will be borne by the government.

Also, individuals who are informed of their HRW or Health Risk Alerts (HRA) status by MOH through SMS will also receive instructions on the frequent testing regime that they must follow.

To facilitate this, such individuals may scan their Singapore-issued ID (NRIC/FIN) to collect a pack (comprising three ART self-test kits) at a nearby vending machine, and use the ART kits for self-testing to fulfil the requirement for HRW.