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## Private demand and sales of rapid antigen tests

### Purpose

This advisory is to encourage members to plan for purchasing rapid antigen tests (RATs) in case their customers begin requiring pre-testing of drivers prior to entering sites, and to be aware of potential supply and availability problems of RATs.

### Customers requesting RATs

Some customers of transport services are requiring drivers to provide a negative RAT before coming on site. We anticipate that this will be a growing trend as Omicron infection numbers increase rapidly.

With RATs only recently becoming available for public purchase, there are concerns about supply and availability. Therefore, we believe it is prudent for transport companies to take a proactive approach accessing RATs for their drivers to meet any requirements from their customers. If you haven't already, we encourage you to consider what options are available to purchase RATs.

### Buying RATs

For medium to large scale operations, refer to Business NZ's list [RAT suppliers for New Zealand](#). For smaller businesses we recommend purchasing them locally. Some nationwide sellers include: major supermarket chains, The Warehouse, Warehouse Stationary, Chemist Warehouse, and some pharmacies. At the moment most of these are limiting the amount that they will sell.

Also please be aware that the Ministry of Health currently approves 11 types of RATs, so if you are purchasing them internationally make sure that you are getting one of those listed [here](#).

Private purchase of RATs is outside the scope of the free testing provided by the Government for people showing symptoms of Covid-19 and/or who are household contacts of an infected person and/or who are critical workers who are asymptomatic and a household contact of an

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infected person. The testing provided by the Government has moved from PCR testing to providing RAT tests for people to administer themselves.

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