

Fact sheet

Key insights from the 2022 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Parent Survey

As part of the 2022 back-to-school plan, the NSW Government implemented a program of surveillance testing for COVID-19. The rapid antigen test (RAT) surveillance program was in place for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 in NSW schools to support continued face-to-face learning (1-25 February 2022). Eight RAT kits were offered to each student and staff member to use for twice weekly voluntary surveillance testing. Students and staff in schools for specific purposes were offered RAT kits for daily voluntary surveillance testing.

This fact sheet provides a high-level overview of findings from the 2022 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Parent Survey. This voluntary and anonymous survey of NSW Government school parents was open from 4 to 9 February 2022 and was completed by 81,875 school parents.

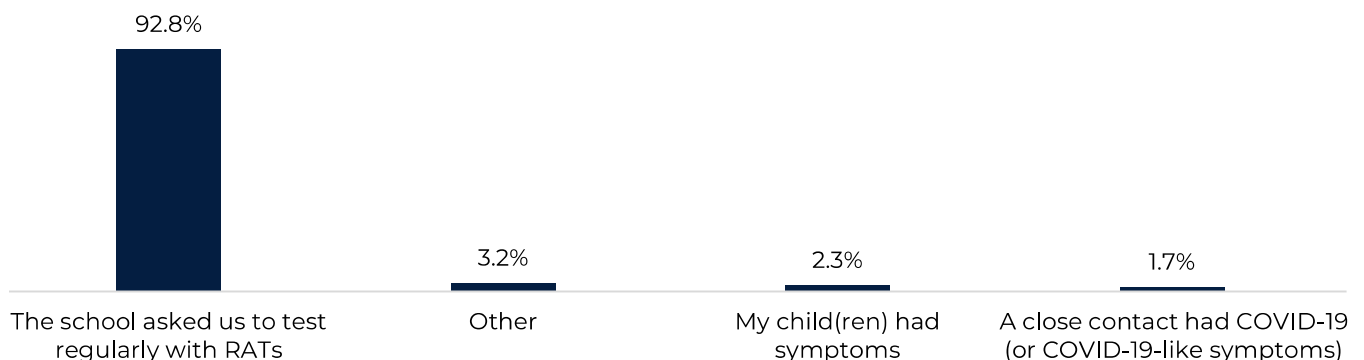
Have you been using RATs provided by your child or children’s school(s)?

- **90.5%** of respondents have been using the RATs provided by their school.
- **9.5%** of respondents have not been using the RATs provided by their school.

What is the main reason your child or children used the RATs provided by their school(s)?

Of the **74,066** respondents whose child or children used the RATs provided by their school(s), the **main** reason they provided was:

- the **school asked them to test regularly** with RATs (92.8%)
- for **other** reasons (3.2%)
- their child or children had **symptoms** (2.3%)
- a **close contact had COVID-19** (or COVID-19-like symptoms) (1.7%).



Overall, what was your experience using RATs with your school-aged child or children?

Of the **74,066** respondents whose child or children used the RATs provided by their school(s), two-thirds found the experience easy.



What is the main reason you have not used the RATs provided by your child or children’s school(s)?

Of the **7,809** respondents who **did not use** the RATs provided by their child or children’s school(s), the **main** reason they provided was:

- their child or children had **no symptoms** (31.1%)
- they did not think the tests were **necessary** (23.2%)
- their child or children had **recently recovered from COVID-19** and were advised not to test at this time (17.6%)
- **other** reasons (6.8%)
- they **did not receive RATs** from their child or children’s school(s) (6.7%)
- it was **too challenging** to use or administer (4.7%)
- they **used RATs that were not provided by the school** (4.5%)
- they are **saving the RATs** for later use (2.5%)
- their child or children **have not attended school yet** (2.2%)
- they used **PCR testing** instead (0.6%).

