

Fact sheet

Key insights from the 2022 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) School Staff 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) School Staff Survey. This voluntary and anonymous survey of NSW Government school staff was open from 4 to 8 February 2022. Of the 120,000 NSW Government school staff invited to participate in the survey, 29,232 completed the survey, giving an overall response rate of 24.4%.

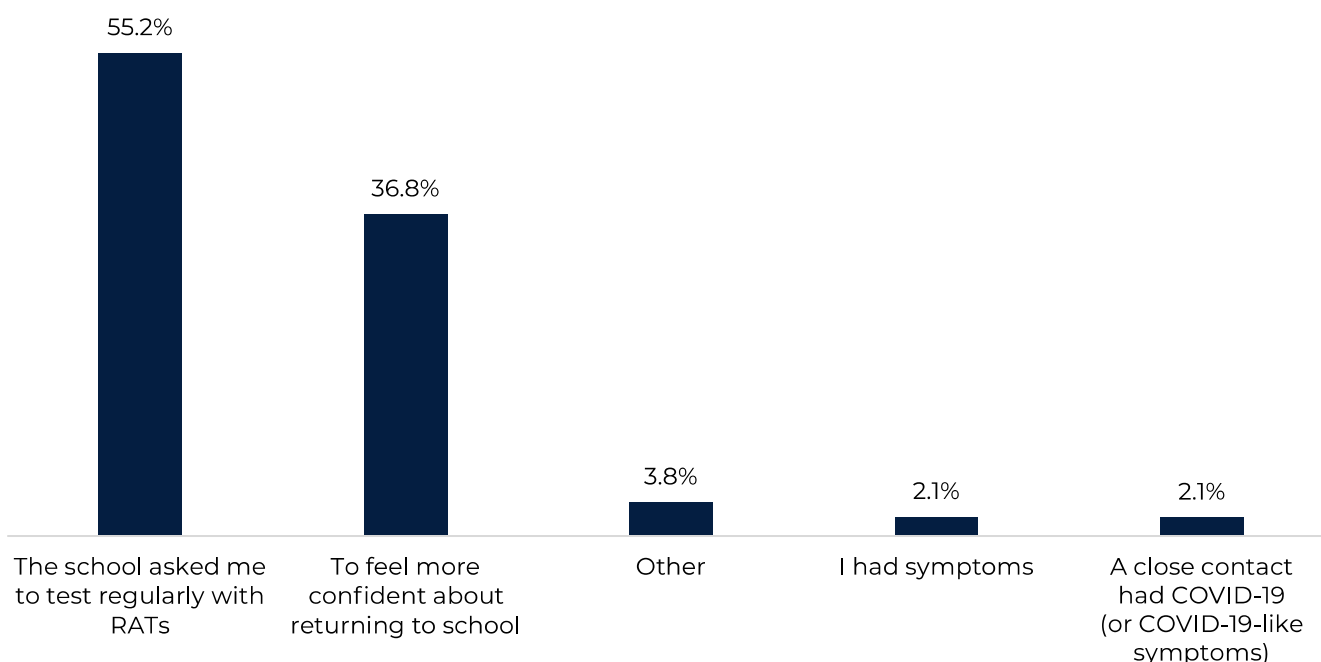
Have you been using RATs provided by your school?

- **91.3%** of respondents have been using the RATs provided by their school.
- **8.7%** of respondents have not been using the RATs provided by their school.

What is the main reason you used the RATs provided by the school?

Of the **26,678** respondents who used the RATs provided by the school, the **main** reason they provided was:

- the school asked them to **test regularly** with RATs (55.2%)
- to feel **more confident** about returning to school (36.8%)
- **other** reasons (3.8%)
- they had **symptoms** (2.1%)
- a **close contact** had COVID-19 (or COVID-19-like symptoms) (2.1%).



What is the main reason you have not used the RATs provided by the school?

Of the **2,554** respondents who **did not use** the RATs provided by the school, the **main** reason they provided was:

- they had **recently recovered from COVID-19** and were advised not to test at this time (30.5%)
- they had **no symptoms** (26.3%)
- they did not think the tests were **necessary** (11.2%)
- **other** reasons (10.4%)
- they had **not attended school** yet (8.6%)
- they had **not received any RATs** from their school (7.6%)
- they were **saving the RATs** for later use (3.6%)
- they **used PCR testing instead** (1.1%)
- it was **too challenging** to use or administer (0.8%).

