

COVID-19 testing services

Austrian authorities have made announcements encouraging testing for COVID-19 and have created various opportunities for individuals to do so. Similarly, all personnel are encouraged to take advantage of the free COVID-19 testing services provided by the Austrian authorities. Those coming to the VIC are especially encouraged to test themselves weekly with either PCR or rapid antigen tests to contain the spread of COVID-19. Please note that no testing is required for entry to the VIC.

Where and how can you test yourself free of charge?

Self-testing with the PCR gargle test

All personnel and their household members can take part in the City of Vienna's free home testing programme "Alles gurgelt", which roughly translates as "Everyone gargles". This campaign allows employees of the participating companies or organizations to take weekly free COVID-19 tests. VIC personnel and their household members can register regardless of whether they have an e-card (a confirmation of the Austrian medical insurance) or private insurance. This is what you need to do:

- Go to the "Alles gurgelt" [website](#) and click on the button "Request barcode" ("Barcode anfordern").
- Register with your mobile phone number and this PIN: 6731.
- You will receive an SMS text message with a link.
- Click on the link to receive your bar code.
- This bar code entitles you to collect a weekly quantity of two test kits per person in your household, up to a maximum of eight kits, at any Vienna BIPA branch. The PCR gargling test kits are free of charge.
- After taking the test, return the sample to any Vienna BIPA branch.
- A test result will be sent within 24 hours if the sample is delivered to a Vienna BIPA store before 09:00 am. If the test is delivered after 09:00, results may take longer.

Taking a rapid antigen test in one of the test centres

In Austria, there are several test centres where you can get tested with rapid antigen tests for free. You can either drive through the test centre by car, or walk through.

In Vienna, there are possibilities to get tested from Monday to Sunday from 06:00 to 21:00 (e.g. the test centre at Austria Center Vienna is open from 07:00 to 19:00) – also during the lockdown and on public holidays. A list of all test centres in Vienna is available [here](#). You can find information for all regions in Austria [here](#) in German after selecting "Österreich testet".

Taking a rapid antigen test in a pharmacy

If you have an e-card (a confirmation of the Austrian medical insurance), you can get tested with rapid antigen tests for free in most of the pharmacies in Vienna. The list of the pharmacies in Austria is available [here in German](#).