

Coronavirus antigen tests as part of occupational health care

We have started a new, faster coronavirus antigen testing alongside the PCR testing. We have started testing our private customers in **Turku, Tampere** and Oulu (starting on week 37) and will soon expand the service to our occupational health customers and other locations. In this service message, you will find information on the new testing and its availability in Mehiläinen occupational health care services.

The antigen test uses the same type of nasal cavity sample as the PCR test. In the antigen test, the sample is examined for the presence of the enveloping structures of the virus, also known as antigens, using the mariPOC testing system. The PCR test, in turn, examines the genotype of the virus using a nucleic acid detection method. Generally speaking, antigen tests are not as accurate as PCR tests but yield faster results and can be carried outside central laboratories. Learn more about antigen testing in the [press release](#) published 2 September 2020 (in Finnish).

The antigen test can be selected over the PCR test when quick results are needed and the test is suited for the individual's situation according to an assessment by a health care professional. At the moment, antigen testing is only conducted on individuals displaying symptoms. A positive antigen test result requires the same isolation, tracking and quarantine measures as the PCR test.

The antigen test costs the same as the PCR test (EUR 249). At the moment, the test is not reimbursed by Kela. We will announce the Kela reimbursement as soon as we receive the decision from Kela.

The antigen test will become available to our occupational health customers on 17 September as part of occupational health agreements alongside PCR tests for the customers whose agreement covers coronavirus testing.

If you want to exclude coronavirus testing or antigen testing from your occupational health agreement, please let us know by 15 September: tt-sopimustiimi@mehilainen.fi

For up-to-date information on our coronavirus testing locations and the availability of the antigen test, please visit the [Mehiläinen website](#).

National Koronavilkku application by THL

The national Koronavilkku application, designed to help prevent infection chains, has now been launched. We encourage all of our customers to download the application. It warns those potentially exposed to the coronavirus and offers instructions on monitoring your symptoms, seeking medical care and being tested for the coronavirus. You can also fill in a symptoms questionnaire in the application at any time. Visit the [Koronavilkku](#) page of THL for more information.

At the moment, the application does not change occupational health care activities. Those who

receive a notification on exposure are offered advice and information, and those displaying symptoms or otherwise requiring a test are directed to coronavirus testing under the testing criteria of THL and your occupational health agreement. An infected individual receives a so-called starting code from the infectious disease unit of their municipality when the individual's movements are officially tracked, and an isolation decision is made.

Teams Live info and information on the COVID-19 pandemic

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic as well as registration links and recordings of our Teams Live information sessions organised for our occupational health care customers in the autumn, please visit our [website](#). The site also includes a comprehensive information package on safe work, coronavirus testing and breaking the chain of infection at workplaces.

The website of the [Finnish Institute of Occupational Health](#) also has a set of guidelines for workplaces. We recommend actively keeping track of the information provided by the authorities, [THL](#), your local public sector healthcare provider and Mehiläinen. Our occupational health team will also be happy to answer any questions concerning COVID-19, testing and planning safe work.

**Best regards,
Mehiläinen Working Life Services**

This is a service message for our corporate customers. You received this service message because we wanted to inform you about matters related to using Mehiläinen's services and the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. You can change your messaging settings in CorporateMehiläinen or OmaMehiläinen.