

## Next Steps after testing positive on an Antigen v. PCR test

Type of Test	Next Step	Confirmatory PCR	Exempt from testing for 90 days?	Qualify for Harvard Provided Travel Letter
PCR (Color or non-Harvard)	Isolate per MDPH Guidelines	N/A	Yes	Yes
Antigen (performed by a healthcare provider)	Isolate per MDPH Guidelines	Recommended but <u>not</u> required. Report positive in Crimson Clear.	Yes (with or without confirmatory PCR)	Yes (with or without confirmatory PCR)
Antigen (at-home, not performed by a healthcare provider)	Isolate per MDPH guidelines	Recommended but <u>not</u> required. Report positive in Crimson Clear.	Yes (with or without confirmatory PCR)	Yes (with or without confirmatory PCR) <b>However, some countries require proof of positive PCR to travel*</b>

*Travel letter requests* can be sent to [contact\\_tracing\\_questions@huhs.harvard.edu](mailto:contact_tracing_questions@huhs.harvard.edu) \*Please know that although you can be supplied a travel letter in all scenarios, some countries still require proof of a positive PCR for travel. Please consider this and the requirements for the country you will be travelling to if you have plans to travel internationally. **\*\*Proof of an external PCR or antigen test is NOT required – individual needs to just provide the date and type of test\*\***

### **Summary of Guidance**

1. **Color or Non-Harvard PCR:** If an individual has a positive test result through Color or a non-Harvard (external) PCR: they must isolate a minimum of 5 full days. The individual will be exempt from Harvard Color testing for 90 days. HUHS can provide the individual with a travel letter, when requested.
2. **Antigen performed by a healthcare provider or urgent care:** While not required, it is recommended that a confirmatory PCR within 48 hours is completed. The individual needs to isolate a minimum of 5 full days. They will be exempt from Harvard’s testing requirement for 90 days with or without the confirmatory PCR. A travel letter is provided upon request with or without the confirmatory PCR\*.
  - a. **If confirmatory PCR is taken within 48 hours of an antigen test performed by a healthcare provider:**
    - i. The confirmatory PCR is positive than they are a confirmed positive case. An individual’s isolation start date is the antigen positive test date. The individual is exempt from future testing for 90 days and a travel letter can be requested from HUHS.
    - ii. A confirmatory PCR is negative than they are considered negative for COVID, even if the antigen was positive. An individual can immediately end isolation and will be required to continue their Harvard normal testing cadence. A travel letter cannot be provided by HUHS as this person is considered COVID negative. Recommended to follow-up with healthcare provider if still experiencing symptoms.
  - b. **If a confirmatory PCR is not taken:**

- i. If a confirmatory PCR test is not taken, an individual is still considered a positive Covid case. The individual must isolate away from others for at least 5 days from the antigen test date. The patient should report their positive result to Crimson Clear. The result may be reported verbally or with a picture of the antigen test. The individual will be exempt from future testing for 90 days and a travel letter can be requested from HUHS Contact Tracing at: [contact\\_tracing\\_questions@huhs.harvard.edu](mailto:contact_tracing_questions@huhs.harvard.edu)
- 3. At-home rapid antigen is performed at home, and not performed by a healthcare provider:** It is recommended, though not required, to get a confirmatory PCR within 48 hours. The individual should isolate a minimum of 5 full days. They will be exempt from the testing cadence for 90 days with or without the confirmatory PCR. A travel letter can be provided upon request with or without the confirmatory PCR\*.
  - a. If confirmatory PCR is taken within 48 hours after an at-home antigen test:**
    - i. The confirmatory PCR is positive than they are a confirmed positive case. An individual's isolation start date is the antigen test date. The individual is exempt from future testing for 90 days and a travel letter can be requested from HUHS.
    - ii. A confirmatory PCR is negative than they are considered negative for Covid. An individual can immediately end isolation and will be required to continue their normal testing cadence. A travel letter cannot be provided by HUHS as this person is considered Covid negative. Recommended to follow-up with healthcare provider if still experiencing symptoms.
  - b. If confirmatory PCR is not taken:**
    - i. If a confirmatory PCR test is not taken, an individual is still considered a positive Covid case. The individual must isolate away from others for at least 5 days from the antigen test date. The patient should report their positive results to Crimson Clear. The results may be reported verbally or with a picture of the at-home test. The individual will be exempt from future testing for 90 days and a travel letter can be requested from HUHS Contact Tracing at: [contact\\_tracing\\_questions@huhs.harvard.edu](mailto:contact_tracing_questions@huhs.harvard.edu)